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# The Barry GEM



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THURSDAY, OCTOBER 27TH, 2011

Court heard that defendant had a total of 22 previous convictions

## 16-month jail sentence for drugs supplier

A DRUGS supplier who operated on a commercial basis in Barry has been jailed for 16 months at Cardiff Crown Court.

Stephen Kidd, 34, an unemployed carpenter of Greys Drive, Boverton, Llantwit Major, had been committed for sentence to the crown court after being convicted by Vale Magistrates on charges of possessing amphetamine with

### CARDIFF CROWN COURT REPORT by AJ SICLUNA

intent to supply, supplying amphetamine and possessing cannabis.

Judge Mervyn Hughes said: "This is a clear case of commercial supply but not at the upper end."

"You have been involved in drugs for very many years."

Prosecutor Cerys Walters said that on July 23, police officers

could no longer work as a carpenter.

He then became involved with the "wrong crowd" because he was an easily-led man.

Custody, she wrote, would have an impact on his mental frame of mind and prison would be of no benefit to him.

Mr Sharpe said Kidd had made substantial admissions.

"Sadly, he has been blighted by the misuse of drugs. He certainly does not have the trappings of wealth and this was nothing more than small scale retail supplying.

"The amphetamine was of low quality and he did not supply vulnerable persons or children."

Mr Sharpe said that his family had fully supported him and had imposed a strict curfew.

The judge ordered that the drugs and the cash be forfeited.

He was handcuffed and officers found that the package contained amphetamine with a street value of up to £1,170. Kidd claimed it was cannabis.

His home, which was then in Broad Street, Barry, was searched and officers found more amphetamine, a quantity of cannabis and scales, as well as a cannabis grinder and £45 in cash.

Kidd said he would sell small amounts of amphetamine to about 10 friends and would use the rest himself.

The court heard he had convictions for 22 offences, five of which involved drugs.

His solicitor, Adam Sharpe, read to the court a reference from his mother, saying her son had suffered a serious ankle injury and



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Jack, Cameron and John want rugby posts at Maslin Park on Barry Island, not just football posts...See story below.

## 'Flying Vet' on Cardiff Prison hunger strike?

SUPPORTERS of Vale 'Flying Vet' Maurice Kirk have contacted The GEM, claiming that he is on hunger strike in Cardiff Prison.

Mr Kirk has been remanded in custody, pending a court appearance on November 10. One supporter claimed that he had already lost two stone.

As The GEM went to press yesterday (Wednesday) a Ministry of Justice spokesperson stated: "We cannot comment on food refusals, as it is medical in confidence." <sic>

## Island boys in a 'rugby posts' plea

REPORT by TIM CHAPMAN

FOLLOWING the Rugby World Cup, three sports-mad youngsters on Barry Island have appealed to the council to install rugby posts at Maslin Park - so they can practice penalties, drop goals and conversions.

John (12) and their friend Jack Jones (12) have already obtained 350 signatures from local people backing their plea, and they have also started a Facebook page 'We want rugby posts on Barry Island'.

Cameron, who attends Barry Island Primary School, told The GEM:

"We can't practice properly without some rugby posts and hope to persuade the council to provide them at Maslin Park."

"We think there are two ways of providing posts... One would be to have dual-purpose football and rugby posts, the other would be to develop the land at the bottom end of the park."

(CONTINUED  
ON PAGE 4)

The three boys point out that following Wales' heartbreak loss to France in the semi-final, the younger generation needs the facilities that will help the country to win the next time a knife-edge World Cup match comes round.

Cameron Mcallister (nine) his elder brother

## THOUSANDS EXPECTED AT FOOD FESTIVAL

COWBRIDGE is gearing itself up for another weekend devoted to celebrating food and drink.

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The festival takes place on October 29-30, starting at 9.30am on Saturday, and 10am on Sunday. See pages 20 and 21 for more details.



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## COUNCILLOR HAS WAY FORWARD

I WOULD like to point out that the attack on independent councillor Richard Bertin by Coun Moore is nothing more than downright misleading Labour drivel (GEM letters, last week).

He says that Coun Bertin is working off the pages of the press – but the phrase pot and kettle comes to mind.

I have been to many meetings and observed that many of our coun-

### THANK YOU

**T**HE committee of the local Barnardo's Helpers Group would like to thank all those who supported our coffee morning held at the home of Mrs Sian Phipps.

The amount raised is an exceptional £1,415. Our thanks to all who attended.

Liz Macintosh,  
Secretary, Cowbridge BHG.

### 'Rugby, it's just another silly game'

**I**T never ceases to amaze me that the Welsh nation unites like no other, over a game – rugby, invented at an English public school, involving a funny-shaped ball.

It was devised by 'Toffs' who could not play football properly, so

### Barnardo's Cymru thanks runners

**O**N behalf of Barnardo's Cymru, I would like to congratulate all the runners who took part in the Lloyds TSB Cardiff Half Marathon this year.

It was a great day for Cardiff, for Wales and everyone that turned up to participate in the event either as runners, or spectators.

The event is now not only the largest race in Wales, but also the largest charity fundraising event which will raise more than an estimated £1 million for over 750 different charities and good causes in the UK.

More runners than ever before ran for Barnardo's and over 300 took part in the family fun run.

A big thank you to all of you, runners, sponsors, partners – and the hundreds of volunteers who helped make the day a success.

Yvonne Rodgers,  
(Director, Barnardo's Cymru)

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## THE COLUMN YOU WRITE

### Readers' Letters

We reserve the right to edit all letters. We do NOT accept anonymous mail. LETTERS AND EMAILS MUST INCLUDE FULL ADDRESS AND A CONTACT TELEPHONE NUMBER. AN EMAIL ADDRESS ALONE IS NOT SUFFICIENT!

We will (in certain circumstances) protect a writer's identity, if requested. Please keep your letters BRIEF and address them to: The Editor, Glamorgan GEM Ltd, Graig House, 53 Eastgate, Cowbridge CF71 7EL.

## 'Party activists should address the concerns, not attack individuals'

**O**H dear, the paranoia is showing, the negative campaigning has started and there are still six months to go before the council elections.

I refer to the letter from Coun Elmore 'Regeneration is a good thing', The GEM, October 20 which unfairly uses a letter from an individual as an opportunity to attack FocusBARRY.

I want to comment on several of Coun Elmore's, at best, misunderstandings.

Firstly, he says: "FocusBARRY is talking our great town down" ... and "so negative about anything good". What complete distortions of the truth.

Once again, we have a Vale councillor attacking the (wrong) messenger and ignoring the criticism from a concerned taxpayer. Just because one or two individuals

are concerned about expenditure on Thompson Street, a project in his ward that he supports, is no reason to condemn an organisation that has not even expressed a view on that issue.

To be clear, FocusBARRY is not a political party and our supporters do not write behalf of FocusBARRY. However, they are at liberty to express their own opinions: it's called freedom of speech.

Next, he states: "It was interesting to read about their survey". FocusBARRY did not conduct a survey: I understand it was an initiative of one individual.

Finally, "Clearly, as FocusBARRY are against this regeneration work in our town" ... Uninformed, misleading and WRONG again, councillor!

Our group held a public meeting in the early days of the Regeneration initiative.

We invited Mr Long, of the Welsh Government, to speak and

several project ideas were later put forward by our supporters.

I have personally submitted four project ideas on two occasions, without any response.

All our members and supporters are enthusiastic and care about Barry, but many are dissatisfied with the Vale Council's performance with regard to our town. These are the principal reasons behind the creation of FocusBARRY.

Readers should prepare themselves for more of these negative attacks, because the local political parties will be challenged by independent candidates at the next council election.

It would be a refreshing change if the party activists addressed the concerns raised by Barry citizens and not attack the individuals or the organisation they claim to support.

Dennis Harkus  
(Chair, FocusBARRY)

### A sure sign it's almost election time!

**W**ELL, there is a surprise – we are only a few months away from the local elections and we see a letter from the leader of the Vale Labour group in The GEM (October 20).

First, he says I was a maverick: Well, I say to him that I am glad I voted against housing on Cemetery Approach, Barry, because this is what the people wanted

and I make no apology for that!

Yes, I was elected as a Labour councillor, but conveniently he seems to have forgotten that I was bullied out of the party for expressing my views on the all women's shortlists.

I am not going to give in – bullying is unacceptable and for a party that was set up by the trades unions it should not be tolerated – but as in my case, it happens.

I wanted to work with my colleagues on council but many, including

him, did not want to work with me as I had upset them many years ago about being selected for a seat that already had a sitting member.

I had to constantly endure being spoken about, ignored and being excluded by them and quite simply, it wasn't nice.

Since I have quit the Labour Party, many people have said I have done the right thing and I'm sorry, as a socialist I would not have stayed in a party that doesn't support the public sector workers in their dispute over pensions, which is what is happening now.

I must have touched a raw nerve here: as for scrutinising the Tories, I must question his leadership or lack of it, that is. All we ever hear from

their leader is 'I agree', 'I support' or 'I concur' with the views of the Tories. I, too, want to see an end to the Tory rule on the Vale Council, but the difference is I do what my residents want, and not what the political masters want.

The Vale Labour group is run by a caucus and right or wrong, don't you dare question them.

This is typical of party politics where you are told what to say, how to say it and how to vote.

In fact, this control freakery stems from the top down and it is totally wrong.

Coun Richard Bertin, Barry  
(Independent member, Vale of Glamorgan Council)

### 'So much for transparency!'

**I** REFER to my letter of October 20, which overlapped a cabinet decision to lease the Old Watchtower to the highest bidder, for a term of 25 years, together with an option to purchase this treasure of Barry.

Sadly, the decision and process took place in a confidential session

of the cabinet on October 19, with members of the public and press excluded.

Apparently, only one final proposal had been received and it would appear that is all we, the public, are allowed to know about the process, and the future of what is probably the most iconic building in Barry. Coun Keith Lewis, Barry  
(Labour Party member)

## 'Vale officials hid behind green bags'

**B**ARRY & Vale Friends of the Earth held a protest against the misinformation being given out by county councils supporting Prospect Gwyrdd – the Green Project, which is all about incineration of our waste and is against all our Government's advice and policy.

The FoE Group were on Kings Square in Barry, to confront officials, who hid behind green bags! The group also made their voice heard at the Vale Council's meeting to discuss the madness of the 'Fracking' proposals.

It appears our voice, along with the huge pub-

### 'NOT against regeneration'

**I** WRITE in reply to Coun Elmore's letter (GEM October 20): FocusBARRY are not talking the town down, as he claims, but supporters are critical of the council's performance.

On some occasions, they are unhappy about the way the council are spending large amounts of taxpayers' money, in this instance, on crazy paving and bollards, while in the same area, standing by and letting vital facilities – such as the cinema, law courts and leisure centre – fall by the wayside.

His allegation that FocusBARRY supporters do not speak FOR FocusBARRY: they speak for themselves.

My advice to Coun Elmore is to get his facts right, because people can see right through the propaganda.

Jonathan Osborne,  
(FocusBARRY supporter)

### Good Samaritan

**I**WOULD like to thank the very kind person who returned my mislaid purse to the customer service desk at Morrison's on Saturday, October 22, without leaving their name.

May I, through your letters page, say a very big thank you to him or her. I was very relieved to have it returned safely and intact.

Peggy Taylor

### HIGH TIDE TIMES (UNTIL NOVEMBER 3)

The high tides listed in this week's GEM are those in Portcawl. It should be remembered that along the coast, high tide times will vary. For instance, in Barry, the high point will be 20–25 minutes later.

DATE	TIME	Ht	TIME	Ht
27 Thur	08.08	10.5	20.24	10.6
28 Fri	08.55	10.7	21.15	10.7
29 Sat	09.38	10.6	22.03	10.4
30 Sun	08.17	10.2	20.43	9.8
31 Mon	09.11	9.7	21.33	9.2
01 Tues	09.59	9.0	22.24	8.5
02 Wed	10.47	8.4	23.23	7.9
03 Thur	11.54	7.9		

While The GEM makes every effort to check the accuracy of tide tables, we recommend that anyone putting out to sea, or walking in an area where they could be cut off, should always check with a tide table specific to their location.

## 'AS LOCAL SHOP OWNERS, OUR LIVELIHOOD IS IN DANGER'

# As councillors visit the Tesco Express site in Dinas Powys... Local residents hold a peaceful protest

DINAS POWYS residents staged a demonstration on October 20, opposing Tesco's plans to build an Express store on Castle Drive in the village.

The protest coincided with a visit by Vale planning councillors who wanted to see the site before making decisions in the evening. The Castle Oak public house is currently undergoing a renovation.

Local shop owner Mrs Jan Mapstone, who runs the popular Valley View Fruit Stores with her husband, Tony, said:

### REPORT by TIM CHAPMAN

"I think there were about 30 people who turned up. There were a lot more local people than shop owners."

"We were grateful for the support. Some people had said they would have liked to come along but couldn't because they were working."

"We wanted to make the point to councillors that we didn't want Tesco."

"As independent shop owners, we work very hard, but our livelihood is in danger."

Originally, local shops feared Tesco

might open the new store as early as June, but there have been more local people than delays.

Mrs Mapstone explained: "At one stage, we thought it was coming in June, then August, then October, and now we are wondering whether it will open before Christmas."

"The delays have at least given us breathing space, but I have a feeling it may open just before Christmas."

"We insisted that we can't stop Tesco, but at least we made our point. "I understand their aim is to have a store within five minutes walking distance of most people in the this country."

"The only way this would be stopped is if there was legislation protecting communities."

In the evening, councillors granted Tesco permission to install

signs, an ATM and the shop frontage. A decision on three air conditioning units and one condenser unit has been deferred.

Local Plaid councillor Val Hartrey urged people to support local shop owners.

She insisted: "I'm disappointed that Tesco,

who have huge financial clout, are taking every opportunity to come into communities and threaten the livelihood of the independent shopkeepers."

"It's important that residents continue to support their local shops from whom we get excellent, friendly, personal service. Please use them or we will lose them."

Tesco argues that the

store will boost employment, creating 25 jobs. It also points out it is a convenience outlet the size of a tennis court, and aims to serve a small catchment area of up to one kilometre.

Accompanied children of all ages are invited to join in traditional games, crafts, food and fun. Entry free – all are welcome.

### Live music

THE Devastators' Rock'n'Roll night at The Borough Arms, Barry, on October 29 starts at 10.30pm. Tickets £2 in advance, £4 on the night.



ABOVE: Dinas Powys residents lent their support to shop owners on Castle Drive in a protest against the arrival of a Tesco store in the former Castle Oak Public House.



ABOVE (left to right): Coun Janie Jones, Coun Margaret Randall, Mrs Jan Mapstone, owner of Valley View Fruit Stores, Coun Rosanne Reeves and Sonia Letts.

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Hariyali Tikka (new) .....	£6.25		
Marinated chicken or lamb tikka cooked with spinach and English mustard in a medium spiced sauce.			
Peri Peri Tikka (new) .....	£6.25		
Marinated chicken or lamb tikka cooked with green beans, peas, fresh green chillies and garlic in a slightly hot sauce.			
Hash Jalfrez (Duck) (n) .....	£7.50		
Marinated duck stir-fried with onions, peppers, tomatoes, green chillies and simmered in a light tomato gravy.			

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Prawn	£5.25	£5.25	£5.25	£5.25	£5.25	£5.25	£5.25	£5.25	£5.25	£5.25	£5.25
Chicken/											
Lamb Tikka	£5.70	£5.70	£5.70	£5.70	£5.70	£5.70	£5.70	£5.70	£5.70	£5.70	£5.70
Vegetable	£3.95	£3.95	£3.95	£3.95	£3.95	£3.95	£3.95	£3.95	£3.95	£3.95	£3.95
King Prawn	£7.50	£7.50	£7.50	£7.50	£7.50	£7.50	£7.50	£7.50	£7.50	£7.50	£7.50
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# Town Council has concern over lack of footpath access

**BARRY** Town Council says it objects to the proposed closure and diversion of footpaths across the new Taylor Wimpey development on Port Road East.

The new housing estate is not far along the road from the new crematorium.

The Town Council says the footpaths currently provide easy access to bus services on the Port Road that are generally not caught up in town traffic.

It is concerned that the diversion of public footpath number 43 (that leads into the Cadoc Ward) would be on top of previous alterations to its southern section and would make the footpath so constrained that it would become unusable.

It also points out that the loss of public footpath number 39 would be even worse as the route provides a well-used and direct link between Skomer Road and Port Road.

The path currently provides access to a number of bus services that are valued by local

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SEE PAGES 23-25

people in the Gibbonsdown and Court Wards.

The council says it is also concerned that the closure would undermine future improvements for footpath links to the new crematorium.

Coun Keith Lewis, the chairman of the town council's planning committee, said: "It is interesting to note that when the Vale Council granted planning approval for the crematorium, the consent was subject to the applicant entering into a Section 106 agreement that provides the substantial financial sums towards sustainable transport facilities to serve the site."

"The removal of direct footpath access between the crematorium and the northern Barry communities would be contrary to the fundamental principles of the strategy as local pedestrian routes provide the most basic form of sustainable transport – walking."

Rather than closing or diverting footpaths, the town council says it wants urgent action to improve access for local residents to the new crematorium as it is within easy walking distance for many communities in the town.

A Vale Council spokeswoman said: "We note Barry Town Council's comments and they will be considered at the appropriate time, when the Vale Council considers the issue."

## YOUNGSTERS IN CAMPAIGN FOR RUGBY POSTS

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1)

Cameron added: "We would be prepared to fundraise if it was necessary and we have already taken our petition to local shops, cafes and schools to gather names in support of the campaign."

"Our campaign has already won support from Jane Hutt AM and Coun Nic Hodges, and we have contacted Alun Cairns, the WRU and Cardiff Blues."

John, a pupil at Barry Comprehensive School, said their campaign had been inspired by the Welsh rugby team's World Cup adventure in New Zealand.

Wales is the only country that can claim to equal the Kiwis when it comes to passion for the game and it seemed strange that there was no posts.

"I thought the team played really well, although I didn't like the decision by the referee when Sam Warburton was sent off.

"The match against France was close and showed how important kicking can be."

John and Jack watched the drama unfold at the Millennium Stadium as Wales agonisingly lost by a single point.

Stephen Jones missed a conversion and a drop goal, and Leigh Halfpenny failed with a long range penalty – opportunities which could have changed the course of Welsh rugby history.

In the play-off for third and fourth place, Wales' kicking

woes resurfaced, this time with James Hook the culprit.

John said: "Players have to be able to kick accurately and land kicks from long range. When Leigh Halfpenny took the kick, there was cheering – then frustration."

Jack, a pupil at Barry Comprehensive School, said the youngsters had also been in touch with the new 'Youth Champion' for the Vale, Coun Richard Bertin. The boys say the more rugby posts there are for youngsters to practice, the more chance there is that Wales might win the World Cup one day.

Phil Beaman, of the Vale Council, had encouraging news for the young campaigners: "It is good to see the success of the Welsh team at the Rugby World Cup has inspired young people on Barry Island to take action."

Maslin Park has traditionally been a football venue. Following representations from the local young people, the parks and grounds maintenance division is now considering the practicality of installing combination football/rugby posts or installing rugby posts at another venue on the Island.

"This evaluation will consider the use of the pitch, the space and maintenance requirements, along with any safety issues that may arise if the posts are changed. The division will also be consulting the local football league regarding this proposal," he added.

## Pupils sample surfing thrills at Porthcawl beach



**COASTAL** safety and attempting to excited, enthused and Connections, the ride the rollers of the empowered.

**BEACH-BASED PROJECT** Bristol Channel. "We believe surfing on Kerrys Baker, who a regular basis will offer at Ashgrove School, leads Coastal the pupils confidence, recently took pupils Connections, said: "The self-esteem and a sense surfing at Rest Bay Beach, Porthcawl.

The pupils explored time, the thrill of catching a wave and being Bay in Porthcawl on a about beach and water whole group feeling curriculum to the beach.

## Balloons go up to Santa

**SACKS** of Christmas gifts will be at bargain prices and Father Christmas will make his first visit of the season to the fayre at St Paul's Church Hall, Barry, next Saturday, November 5 from 2pm.

This year, the fayre will be opened by 'Mr Bob' of Bob's Balloons, who will demonstrate his skill at making many kinds of animals and shapes from balloons. Every child will be given one to take home.

Opening at 2pm, the fayre will be packed with goods at low prices. Stalls will include Christmas gifts, books and DVDs, homemade cakes, toys, jewellery, bottle stall, hand-crafted gifts and Christmas cards. There will also be a lucky dip and prize draw.

Admission to the fayre for children is free, and they can receive a present from Santa in his grotto for just £1; admission for adults is 50p.

All proceeds go to St Paul's Church in Merthyr Dyfan Lane, Colcot.

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# Cadets' achievements marked at 372 (Barry) Squadron's annual presentation evening



**Cadet Gareth Messer, receiving the Flt Lt Roy Fido award from Mrs Rose Fido.**

THE 372 (Barry) Squadron, Air Training Corps recently held its annual presentation evening to celebrate the achievements of Cadets over the last 12 months.

Many friends and relatives attended in what turned out to be a very enjoyable evening. The main guests were: Wing Commander Paul Regan (Officer Commanding MoD St Athan), Superintendent Jay Dave (Barry Police) Squadron Leader Dave Crandon and Flight Lieutenant John Greenow (both former Commanding Officers 372 Squadron) and Mrs Rose Fido.

The evening began with a welcome speech from Flight Lieutenant Jason Horton, when activities, challenges and opportunities were outlined.

The last 12 months saw Cadets travel to the Brecon Beacons, Black Mountains and the Neath Valleys, undertaking expeditions, hill walking and kayaking. The Cadets have undertaken a wide variety of sports including: hockey, netball, swimming, football, rugby, athletics and circuit training.

The Squadron has sup-



**Cadet Steph Jones receiving the award for adventure training from Mr Doug Provis (founder of 372 (Barry) Squadron).**

ported many organisations within the community, including the Royal Air Forces Association and the Royal British Legion, raising £6,000 during the last 12 months.

The Cadets have also experienced flying, gliding, shooting, attending camps at RAF stations, leadership courses, air shows and 20 cadets also visited the battlefields of Ypres (Belgium) and the Somme (France).

The main trophy win-

ners were: Cadet Gareth Messer – Cadet of the Year; Flight Sergeant Carl Chaplin – Community Service; Cadet Keiren Long – Musician of the Year; Cadet Sam Lazenbury – Flt Lt Dave Crandon Challenge Shield; Cadet Georgina Poulakis – Most Promising New Cadet.

The final act of the evening was for Mrs Dawn Regan to promote Sam Lazenbury to Corporal, Adam Wood to Sergeant and Megan Palmer-Wood to Flight Sergeant.

Flight Lieutenant Jason Horton said: "Yet again, the Cadets have worked hard and played hard during the last 12 months. While the Cadets experience amazing activities, such as flying, gliding and shooting opportunities, they also work hard for their local community."

"I am immensely proud of all the Cadets on the Squadron."

The Squadron band performed for the assembled guests and parents, demonstrating why it is one of the premier bands in the Air Training Corps.

If you have a spirit for adventure, 372 (Barry) Squadron has vacancies for boys and girls between 13-18 years old.

The Squadron parade on Mondays and Wednesdays 7pm-9.30pm, behind Adams Funeral Parlour.

Telephone the Squadron on 01446 747734, or email [oc.372@aircadets.org](mailto:oc.372@aircadets.org) for more information about the Air Training Corps or about joining the Squadron.



**Promotion for Flt Sergeant Megan Palmer-Wood, Sergeant Adam Wood and Corporal Sam Lazenbury.**

## Pupils impress an AM



**Pupils meet the new boy in class!**

VALE-BASED regional AM, Andrew RT Davies, was at St Richard Gwyn High School, Barry, for 'Local Democracy Week'.

"It was great to see local decision-makers from all parties making themselves available to those who wished to express their views and ideas. I certainly enjoyed the opportunity to talk with many of the students who were there on Friday."

I look forward to seeing them emerge as the politicians and public servants of the future."

## Online a hit!

THE Vale Council's new online payment system for school meals and music lessons is proving to be a massive hit with local residents.

The service, which officially launched in the summer, saw £17,571 taken for school meals and £3,429 taken for music lessons during September 2011 alone. A new telephone payments service has also proved popular, with £3,429 taken for meals and £1,371 taken for music lessons.

A total of 27 schools have been set up to receive online and telephone payments:

Cadoxton, Cogan, Colcot, Evenlode, Fairfield, Gwenfro, High Street, Holton Road, Llancafnan, Llandough, Llanfair, Llansannor and Llanharry, Peterston-Super-Ely, Romilly, St Andrews Major, St Brides Major, St David's, St Helen's Infants, St Iltyd, St Joseph's, St Nicholas, Victoria, Wick and Marcross, Y Bont Faen, Ysgol Sant Curig, Ysgol Dewi Sant and Ysgol Nant Talwg primary schools.

West End Scream! SCARY night of fun, music and raffles collecting donations for the Velindre Cancer charity at Barry West End Club, on October 28 at 7.30pm.

Online payments can be made using the council website [http://www.valeofglamorgan.gov.uk/living/do\\_it\\_online/pay\\_it.aspx](http://www.valeofglamorgan.gov.uk/living/do_it_online/pay_it.aspx)

members and officers

from various departments in the council came to speak with pupils.

They also had the opportunity to cast their votes for the 'Vale Youth Champion 2011-2012.'

The winner was Coun Richard Bertin, who will be attending numerous events around the Vale during the next year, in order to support the young people who voted for him.

We welcome your news, reports and other items of interest - email: [gemeditorial@tindlenews.co.uk](mailto:gemeditorial@tindlenews.co.uk)

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**West End Scream!**  
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At lunchtime, council

# WELSH GOVERNMENT'S PRIORITY

# Disabled people must be supported in Wales

**WHEN I spoke at the annual conference of the organisation 'Disability Wales', I knew I would learn a great deal about the adverse impact of the changes and cuts in welfare benefits, and the numbers of people who would be affected in Wales.**

I was right, the figures speak for themselves – around 23 per cent of the population of Wales has some form of disability.

A quarter of a million people claim the Disability Living Allowance; 10 per cent of our working age population receive Incapacity Benefit/Employment Support Allowance and 66,000 people receive home community care services.

In addition, over 2,000 receive the Independent Living fund.

Last year, the Chancellor announced unparalleled cuts to public spending in his Budget statements affecting the grant to the Welsh Government but also to welfare benefits.

He announced over £14bn worth of cuts to the welfare benefits budget, which is having a major impact on disabled people.

On behalf of the

## ADVICE SURGERY

**BARRY Town councillor Claire Curtis will be holding a drop-in advice surgery at 11am-12pm for residents of Dyfan ward on Saturday, October 29 at the Highlight Park Community Centre, joined by Anthony Powell.**

Welsh Government, our Minister for Social Services, Gwenda Thomas AM, has met with the UK Government Minister for Disabled People, to raise our concerns about the impact of the cuts in disability benefits; and we are represented on a cross-government group to address employment issues for disabled people.

We are also supporting research into the link between welfare benefits and social care in Wales and the likely impact of any changes.

We know we have to reduce our budgets, but it is a question of priorities and we have always said that we would seek to protect vulnerable people and support the economic recovery.

This is why it is important to keep our concessionary fares for disabled people and their companions and protect our social services funding for local authorities.

At the conference last week, I spoke about our concerns with the pace and scale of changes to the benefits system and the impact this will have on disabled people and the increased pressure on local services.

It is clear that the UK Government expects local authorities to meet any shortfall in provisions caused by the changes, and there is no sign of any additional funding to help Wales meet this shortfall.

This could have a major impact on our policies to help disabled people to live independently.

Every local authority is having to make savings and it is a challenge to do this while protecting services.

A recent report, sponsored by SCOPE, looked at the changes and fortunately came to the conclusion that Welsh councils were not experiencing

such big changes as those in England, because the Welsh Government chose to protect local government services as far as we could.

Overall, the SCOPE report found that the picture in Wales is more stable than in England and the new charging guidelines for care, which we introduced last year with extra funding,

has been a stabilising influence and are more generous than in England.

At the conference, I was pleased to announce that we are developing a framework for action on independent living for disabled people.

This will be developed across the whole Welsh Government, covering housing, health care, leisure and all aspects of life.

Alongside this we are consulting on our new public sector duties under the Equality Act 2010, which all public bodies must follow.

The Welsh Government website has background information on these new duties and there is a questionnaire for people to answer, so that they can identify the barriers they face and call on the Government to take action to address them.

These duties will be all the more important as the harsh reality of the welfare benefit cuts hit home for many people, as I have found in my recent surgeries, with people coming to tell me how it has affected them.

Over 1,000 people marched through Cardiff last Saturday, as part of the 'Hardest Hit' rallies which took place across the UK to raise awareness of the cuts to benefits affecting disabled people, amidst warnings from disabled groups that there will be further benefit cuts.

Disabled people want

to live independently, they want to work if they can, live healthily, make a contribution and get involved in community activities, but they need financial support, adapted housing and access to transport.

Much of this is threatened by the welfare benefit changes, which are deep and extensive.

*I hope we can help mitigate against these in our policies and practice with the funding and levers we have got in the Welsh Government.*

## ASSEMBLY NOTES



by Vale AM  
**JANE HUTT**  
(Minister for Finance and Leader of the House)



## Bryn Hafren girls support food bank

PUPILS at Bryn Hafren school were pleased to support the school. A spokesperson

Harvest assemblies throughout food bank in Barry. The pupils decided to make this appeal with their usual generosity."

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## Sully club owner's birthday surprise



Chris prepares to make the first cut to his 65th birthday cake, while wife Christine and daughters Julie and Michelle, look on.

**THE proprietor of the Sully Constitutional Club and Restaurant Chris Aynge celebrated his 65th birthday last week and received a surprise cake.**

He was presented with the cake and a personalised bottle of his favourite port by wife Christine and his two

daughters Julie and Michelle. Chris has been proprietor of the club for 33 years, and inherited it from his mother and grandmother.

His grandmother originally opened the club 77 years ago in 1934. Daughter Michelle told The GEM: "This week, my father and mother are enjoying a trip to Tenerife!"

Chris always has an allocation of GEMs available for visitors to the club.

## Volunteers help to raise £451 for Mind in the Vale



ABOVE: Bucket at the ready for donations!

**MIND in the Vale of Glamorgan's recent fundraiser at Llanantonian Hall proved very successful, as volunteers worked hard to raise £451 by selling delicious cupcakes, bric-a-brac and clothes.**

The local mental

health charity has thanked volunteers and the public, and the Mayor, who showed their support.

Spokeswoman Menna Jones, who is based at the Western Vale Mind Project, commented: "These events would not be possible without the help of our volunteers, who not only pull out all the stops when fundraising, but are an integral part of running our resource centres which provide an invaluable service to the community."

"The Mayor, Eddie Williams and his wife, were keen to find out what we do in the area and many members of the public were very generous in their support."

*Mind in the Vale of Glamorgan, which has projects covering the western Vale, Barry and Penarth, is a charity that works with and for people who are experiencing mental distress.*

*For more information contact the main office on 01446 730792.*

## Playgroup celebrates third birthday

ON September 30, KiddieWinkles Playgroup in Barry celebrated a third birthday!

A spokeswoman said: "We held a fancy dress party with lots of fun games throughout the morning. There was party food and a mini disco at the end of the session to celebrate. Lots of fun was had by all – and the staff were very happy to join in with the fancy dress, too!"

"Jayne Eldridge, the leader, would like to extend her thanks and gratitude to every member of her wonderful playgroup team for all their help, love and support over the past three years."

Telephone 07855 369601 or [kiddiewinkles@tiscali.co.uk](mailto:kiddiewinkles@tiscali.co.uk) for further details – or check out the new website at [www.kiddiewinkleschildcare.com](http://www.kiddiewinkleschildcare.com)



## Voluntary sector plays 'vital' role in Vale - AM

**VALE AM Jane Hutt has handed out grant money to local voluntary groups, and praised them for their "vital" contribution.**

Ms Hutt was at the AGM of VCVS, which supports over 400 local groups in the Vale, when she handed out Kickstart grant awards to Vale voluntary and community groups.

Ms Hutt, who is also Finance Minister, spoke at the AGM, held on 7 October at the Memorial Hall, giving some headline information about the Draft Budget she presented last week, and she assured the meeting that she was doing her best to protect the voluntary sector, recognising the hard work that they do.

She said that umbrella bodies like VCVS play a vital role in supporting, advising and guiding voluntary groups in their work, which covers health,

social care, advice services, housing, the environment, education, children and young people, older people, village and community halls, sport, culture and many more areas.

Ms Hutt said: "The voluntary sector in the Vale plays a vital role in supporting vulnerable people as well as backing all those volunteers who work hard to organise activities, manage village halls, youth and community groups as well as sing in choirs and enjoy sporting activities."

"I was delighted to hand out the cheques for many such groups from the Kickstart funding which comes from the Welsh Government, via the Community Facilities and Activities Grant Scheme.

"The work of volunteers is cost-effective, caring and committed and we need to back them in these difficult financial times."

## Carrier bag charge benefits local charity

**AFTER 5p charges for carrier bags were introduced in Wales earlier this month, Jan and Tony Mapstone, proprietors of Valley View Fruit Stores in Dinas Powys, felt the charges they were required to levy should go to a local charity.**

After consulting their customers, they decided to support Dinas Powys Voluntary Concern, a local charity that helps Dinas Powys residents who are elderly and those who have mobility problems.

Many of these, including a number of Jan and Tony's own customers,

find it difficult to reach shops in larger shopping centres and rely upon village shops for their

day to day needs.

Dinas Powys Voluntary Concern has now supplied Jan and Tony with a charity collecting box into which the 5 pences go.

However, Jan and Tony's idea was such a good one that other retailers in the village were approached.

So far, The Village Stores, Mark Griffiths the Butcher, The Green Room florists, the two branches of TH & L Jones Dispensing Chemists and Happy Embroidery.com, have joined Valley View Fruit Stores in having collecting boxes.

The carrier bag charges will go directly to a village charity.

Budgens have also agreed to display one of their collecting boxes.

## BARRY COMPREHENSIVE SCHOOL NEWS

## Pupils get a 'taster day' at 'big school'

*Ready to blow at the start of the hovercraft race*



**ON Friday, October 7, Barry Comprehensive School welcomed almost 300 year-6 boys to an action-packed day – to introduce them to the school.**

The science department took over the school hall with a large-scale experiment on power, that featured demonstrations, hands-on practicals and an explosion or two!

Pupils also had a crash course in making music with a junk band, African drums, samba, percussion, rock school and an introduction to music technology.

Dodgeball in the gym gave everyone a chance to work up an appetite which combined with the mouth-watering aromas from the hospitality and catering department made everyone ready for lunch.

Rounding off the day, each boy received an information pack about the school including a copy of the brand new prospectus and a cool watch so there will be no excuses for being late when they visit us again next year.

Thanks to everyone involved for contributing to a great day.

**AC Electing 'Vale Youth Champion' A MAJOR part of Local Democracy Week is the opportunity for pupils to**



After rocking out in the LRC the professionals encouraged the year-6 boys to have a go



### vote for their Vale Youth Champion.

The current Youth Champion, Coun Chris Elmore, is standing down following his successful year as Youth Champion.

Couns Richard Bertin, Sophie Williams, Rob Curtis and Chris Williams were compet-

ing to become the new Vale Youth Champion.

The V-POD, a single-decker bus specially converted to deliver activities and services for young people in the Vale, was also at the school all day.

On board, pupils could watch the councillors' video manifests, talk directly to some councillors, police officers and council representatives before making up their minds and casting their vote.

Coun Richard Bertin was the winner in the election and is 'Youth Champion' for the next 12 months.

**ARTISTS' DISPLAY**  
COWBRIDGE Art Society holds the official opening of its annual exhibition at Old Hall, Cowbridge, on Monday, November 14 at 7pm.

## Slugs and snails help nature reserve win special award

**WENVOE Upper Orchid Field is celebrating becoming the first in Wales to win a Special Award for Innovation from the Green Flag Award Scheme.**

The green space is one of just 11 parks and green spaces in the UK to achieve the award, presented to Green Flag Award or Community Award-winning sites.

"The award was given to a section of the community nature reserve called Molluscopolis – dedicated to snails and slugs, collectively known as molluscs. There are displays giving information on them and a habitat has

*RIGHT: Daniel Lee of Sully and snails. Photo by PHILIP WILLIS*

been created to attract them so that visitors can see quite a variety of live species.

"We got the idea to create the area following a visit by the local Cubs group, where it became clear that many youngsters were fascinated by slugs and snails," commented Bruce McDonald, a volunteer at the reserve.

"We believe that this may be unique, as molluscs are not the most fashionable species in wildlife areas."



## VALE MP's VIEWPOINT

# 'A terrific result as shale gas exploration halted'

**R**EADERS of The GEM will know by now that the Vale planning committee met last week and unanimously objected to the planning application to test drill for shale gas in Llandow.

A terrific result and a huge success for the Vale Says No campaigners, residents, businesses and local politicians who all actively voiced their concerns and lodged their objections to the gas exploration planning application.

Back in March, I wrote an article in The GEM drawing attention to the application, and noted my strong objections to the application for shale gas by Coastal Oil & Gas.

The Vale Says No lead campaigner, Louise Evans, has worked hard over the last seven months to raise awareness of the local application, but also the wider issues regarding shale gas exploration and extraction in the UK as a whole.

Louise and the team have set an example to other campaign groups on how to successfully and peacefully raise awareness and support across communities that ultimately deliver a powerful message to planners and developers.

In its crudest terms, this planning application could have been described as a bid



**Vale MP  
Alun Cairns**  
reports to GEM readers

contacted the current Minister in the Welsh Government to 'call in' this application, as well as his predecessor in the role during the first half 2011.

This request was based on the Welsh Government's lack of technical advice and guidance on the exploration and extraction of shale gas provided to the local authority.

Planning is a devolved matter and approval or rejection of any gas exploratory planning applications within Wales is defined as a responsibility for Welsh Government and the guidance they provide to our local authorities.

It is up to us to make the strongest case possible and I will continue to urge the Welsh Government to take action with regard to this and similar gas exploration planning applications.

I fear that we have not heard the last from Coastal Oil & Gas.

The members of the planning committee are legally bound to consider the evidence based on planning matters and on local and national policy.

I think our local councillors deserve huge congratulations for taking a stand last

Thursday at the planning committee meeting and making the right choice by rejecting this application.

Over recent months, I had

merely dig a hole on the business estate in Llandow.

However, this was simply not the case. My main concerns regarding this exploratory application were the potential consequences of shale gas being found.

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## Choir concert at Methodist Hall

WRVS Colcot Darby and Joan Club welcomes all OAPs to a concert by the Barry Ladies Choir at St David's Methodist Hall, on the corner of Winston Road and Colcot Road, Barry, on Monday, October 31 at 2pm.

Entrance is free to all OAPs and the concert will be followed by tea and biscuits.

### Councillors to hold advice surgery

**COURT** Ward Barry councillors Bronwen Brooks, Jeff Evans and Theo Stenstrom, along with candidate Brian Morris, will be holding an advice surgery on Saturday, November 5, between 10.30am-11.30am at the YMCA HUB, Court Road, Barry.

Contact Coun Bronwen Brooks on 07525 158391 for further information.

We welcome your news, reports and other items: gemeditorial@tindlenews.co.uk



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Saturday 19th November.

Duty-free Christmas shopping.

Early morning - midnight.

Various dates available.

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## COUNCILLORS WIN PRAISE AS...

# Fracking battle is won – at least for the moment!

**COUNCILLORS** on a Vale Council planning committee were praised last week by 'anti-fracking' campaigners, after unanimously throwing out an application to test drill for shale gas.

However, the company making the application, Coastal Oil and Gas, made it clear that an appeal would be lodged, arguing that test drilling did not involve any of the techniques used in fracking.

Controversy surrounds the process of hydraulic fracturing, better known now as fracking, because sand, water and some chemicals are pumped into fissures in shale beds hundreds of metres below ground.

Campaigners argue that there is a risk of contamination in ground water. They also say that

the process of setting up drilling rigs to commercially extract shale gas will badly disrupt the Vale.

Vale AM Jane Hutt welcomed the decision to reject the test drilling application in Llandow.

She said: "I have called for a moratorium on gas shale drilling and extraction and objected to this application to the Vale Council. I welcome the Vale Council's planning committee's decision to reject this application in Llandow."

Andy Chyba of the Bridgend Green Party said: "This represents a total vindication of the stance we have taken from the outset of this campaign back in January.

"It also represents a triumph for people power, with the people of Llandow and the Vale being prepared to wrestle with the issues in order to understand them, and

lack of support from the Welsh Government.

"I have argued for some time that this is a matter of national significance and have, alongside other local politicians, been asking the Welsh Government to call this application in.

"We should also pay enormous tribute to the Vale Says No campaign and others who have worked tirelessly to raise the profile of this issue."

The Plaid Cymru spokesperson for the Vale, Dr Ian Johnson, was concerned about what might happen at an appeal.

He said: "As we saw when Vale councillors refused permission for an incinerator on Barry Docks, the decisions of our elected representatives can be overturned on appeal to planning inspectors who have no public mandate.

"That this can happen is unacceptable and shows a need for the planning process to be changed."

South Wales Central AM Eluned Parrott said: "I am delighted the Vale of Glamorgan councillors have voted against this uncertain process

despite contrary advice from planning officers.

"This should have been called in by the Minister and I am still keen that the Minister will provide guidance on the general issue of fracking and its associated drilling.

"The matter has not been laid to rest and there will be an appeal which must also be contested vigorously."

Andy Chyba said that, in his opinion, the application had failed because of "the lack of any regulatory regime designed specifically for this industry".

He went on: "Test drilling applications should not be considered in isolation. They are simply the first step in a linked set of stages to full production.

"If there is no chance of allowing subsequent stages, there is no point in allowing the first stage."

"That the councillors on the committee accepted this argument against the advice of their planning officers, whose tick box sheets presumably cannot cope with 'big picture' thinking."

**AROUND 200** simple ways to save energy in an exciting and engaging way. The interactive day was filled with activities, including generating electricity with body movement, working with miniature examples of renewable energy sources, using thermal imaging cameras to see how much heat is emitted from the human body and the effects of insulation.

Coun Keith Geary said: "Pupils rose to the challenge at the Climate Cops Academy, thoroughly enjoying the practical activities and exercises."

The Climate Cops also spent a day at Llanilltud Fawr Primary School in Llanlltwi Major and Rhws Primary School – leading even more children through a fun packed day, teaching them some simple ways of saving energy and money.

Clare McDougall, head of community and education at npower, was delighted with the enthusiastic response by teachers and pupils, saying:

"It's wonderful that the Climate Cops programme is helping schools across the UK to become greener and more sustainable, and is inspiring young people to get involved in energy efficiency, themselves."

## CCTV arrests

**THE CCTV operation**, working under the umbrella of the Safer Vale Partnership, assisted with five arrests in the week ending October 23.

Information from the team also led to two individuals being issued with court summonses and one receiving a fixed penalty notice.

CCTV contacted the police on 36 occasions: on October 20, one arrest was made concerning criminal damage on High Street, Barry and the following day another was made for breach of curfew on Skomer Road, Barry. On October 22, three individuals were arrested following an affray on Broad Street, Barry.

Information from the CCTV team also led to two individuals on Boerton Road, Llanlltwi Major, being issued with court summonses over criminal damage, and one individual being issued with a fixed penalty notice for the same offence on the same road. These incidents took place on October 21 and 22.



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Year-5 pupils at Rhws primary school get physical with the Batakl challenge of hitting random red lights, symbolising turning off stand-by lights at home to save energy.

## Local pupils pledge to work on climate change



Year-4 pupils are given some extra help from Aberthaw Power Station commercial manager Mark Picton.

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**Stiwardio:** Mae'r Eisteddfod Genedlaethol yn dibynol iawn ar gefnogaeth a chyfraniad helaeth gwirfodolwr, yn ystod y cyfnod paratoadol ac yn ystod yr wythnos ei hun.

Mae gan stiwardiaid rôl bwysig yn ystod yr wythnos - yn aml iawn, y stiwardiaid yw wyneb cyhoeddus yr Eisteddfod Genedlaethol, ac mae eu cyfraniad yn amhrasidwy.

Os hoffech chi wrifodoli fel stiward ar gyfer Eisteddfod 2012, cysylltwch â ni yn Swyddfa'r Eisteddfod neu gallwch lawr lwytho'r ffurflen gais o wefan yr Eisteddfod: [www.eisteddfod.org.uk](http://www.eisteddfod.org.uk).

**Pwyllgorau Apêl a Mârhau:** Mae Pwyllgorau Apêl wedi eu sefydlu ar draws y Sir ac wedi bod yn brysyr yn trefn calendar o ddigwyddiadau ar gyfer y misoedd sydd i ddod.

Ymwyg y gweithgareddau ar gyfer yr wythnosau nesaf mae 'nouson o straeon a chaneuon ysbryd yn nhafarn Boerton Castle, Dachwedd 18fed.

Mae manylion pellach yngyd â rhestr lanh o'r digwyddiadau ar gael er wefan yr Eisteddfod. Cystadlu: Cyflwynwyd copi cyntaf o'r Rhesstr Testunau gan Gadeiryd y Pwyllgor Gwath, Dr Dylan Jones i'r Archdyddwr, John Hefin, yn rhannu eu hategion o'r ffilm yn Ysgol Bro Morgannwg ar Dachwedd 18fed.

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Mae'r ymwydol yngyd â rhestr lanh o'r digwyddiadau ar gael er wefan yr Eisteddfod. Mae ar gael o swyddfa'r Eisteddfod - 029 2076 3777 neu o'r wefan [www.eisteddfod.org.uk](http://www.eisteddfod.org.uk).

Ymwyg y beirniadu eleni fydd yr actor Matthew Rhys a fydd yn beirniadu Gwobra Goffa Richard Burton am y monolog orau a'r tenor Wynne Evans a'r soprano Rebecca Evans a fydd yn beirniadu yn yr adran gerddi.

**Perfformio:** Mae sawl ffodd i berfformwyr fleol boed yn ddawnswyr, cantrion neu grwpiau i gyrryd rhan: o gymryd rhan mewn noson i godi arian gydag un o'r pwyllgorau apêl, i berfformio ar o'r llwyfanau perfformio ar y maes - cysylltwch gyda'r swyddfa am wybodaeth bellach.

**Llogi Stodin:** Dros gyfnod o 8 diwrnod,

mae'r Maes 35 acer yn garref i dros 300 o ston diniau - yn fفسنau, crefftwwyr, elusenau, sefydladau - ychydig o bobeth - mecca ar gyfer siopwyr - a'r siop dros dro orau y cewch chi byth.

Gyda channoedd o weithgareddau o bob math yn ystod yr wythnos ac ymgrych gyfarfhebu glyn hwysfawr i ddenu ymwellwyr, gallwch chi fod yn rhan o'r bwrwlwm a'r hawl i gyd - yn gwerthu yw cymrych neu wasanaeth - yn ehangu'ch busnes a denu cwsmeriaid newydd.

Ein gofáith yw denu mwy o siopau, busnesau a chrefftwwyr o Gymru i'r Maes a hyrwyddo'r Eisteddfod fel frenesol i bopeth Cymraeg a Chymreig. Os ydych chi'n meddwl y gallai'ch cwmmi chi elwa o'r cyfe hwn, cysylltwch.

Mae cost stodin yn yr Eisteddfod yn gystaldeul iawn ac yn gyffle busnes arbenigig. Cyhoeddir y prisiau ddechrau'r flwydym a bydd y manylion i gyd yn ymddangos ar wefan yr Eisteddfod.

Os hoffech chi drafod anghenion eich cwnni, anfonwch e-bost atom - [eira@eisteddfod.org.uk](mailto:eira@eisteddfod.org.uk) - a byddwn yn hapus i'ch cymhori a'ch helpu i ddewis stodin sy'n gweithio i chi.

Felly oes gennych ddiddordeb mewn cymryd rhan, cysylltwch â ni! E-bostwch fi ar [stationed@eisteddfod.org.uk](mailto:stationed@eisteddfod.org.uk) a neu ffonwch ar 029 2076 3777.

Hwn yw'r tro cyntaf ers 1968 i'r Wyl arbennig yma i ymwend â'r Fro felly peidwch â cholli'r cyfe i fod yn rhian rhono.

**The Eisteddfod:** Over a period of 8 days,

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# Concert helps the RAFA Wings Appeal



Two choirs  
(and a band)  
raise £1,000  
for charity

WITH thunderous applause throughout the evening, an enthusiastic audience listened attentively to the Barry Male Voice Choir, the RAFA Concert Band (from Weston-super-Mare), and the Tonyrefail Ladies Choir, all performing at their best in a lively, light but disciplined performance, on behalf of the RAFA Barry branch Wings Appeal at the Barry Comprehensive School.

From marching with Max Boyce, flying with the Dam Busters, to Pirates of the Caribbean or highlights from Oliver, and from John Rutter to Elton John, there was something for all.

The whole programme did not disappoint as the band and choirs performed their individual repertoires, accumulating in a grand finale with audience and performers joining together for old favourites.

As a result, more than £1,000 was raised for the RAFA Wings Appeal, which supports serving and former RAF personnel and their families whenever they are in need.

The Wings Appeal's mission is simple: to ensure that their sacrifice does not result in suffering, loneliness or poverty. Whether it's an injured airman fighting to get back onto his feet, a young child missing a parent on overseas operations, or a WWII veteran needing a shoulder to lean on, RAFA is there to help.

Geoff Horton, chairman and welfare officer of the Barry branch, was full of praise.

He said: "We receive no government funding and are entirely dependent on the generosity of the public to carry on our work."

"I cannot thank enough the public and the many organisations and individuals for their support and sponsorship."

Howard Provis, the secretary and organiser of the event, wished to thank the sponsors: AG Adams & Son, Funeral Directors, Marshall's Butchers, Mr Swallow, the headteacher at Barry Comprehensive School, Branch St David 211 Foresters, Paul Baker, RAFA area director, Jane Hutt AM, and Mr Doug Provis.

Guests included the Deputy Vale Mayor, Councillor Katherine Kemp and her husband, Councillor Gordon Kemp, Barry Mayor Councillor Bronwen Brooks and her consort Mr Wayne Brooks, Squadron Leader Penny Green and Flight Lieutenant Gareth Edwards of MoD St Athan, Vale MP Alun Cairns MP and his wife, Mr Swallow, headteacher of Barry Comprehensive and his wife, and Mr Arthur Thompson and partner of A G Adams & Son.

People wishing to donate may do so throughout the year through collection boxes, or by going on line at [www.rafa.org.uk](http://www.rafa.org.uk)

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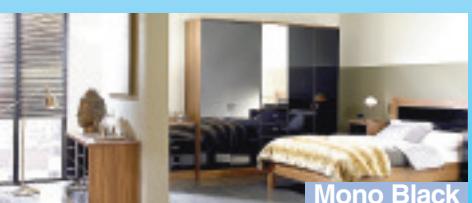


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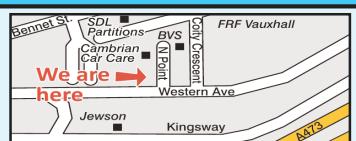
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# Out and About with The GEM

## MP's surgeries

THE Vale MP, Alun Cairns, will be holding advice surgeries this Friday, October 28, as follows:

1.30pm-3pm at the Community Centre, Stewart Road, Rhoose and 4pm-5.30pm, a home energy surgery at West Quay Medical Centre, Hood Road, Barry.

Anyone in the Vale is welcome to attend, but it is advisable to call 01446 403814 to make an appointment.

## Wick fayre

WICK and District Pensioners Club holds an autumn fayre in Wick Village Hall on Saturday, October 29 from 2pm-4pm.

Admission 50p, to include refreshments. There will be a variety of stalls, including food, books, collectables and a grand raffle, with prizes of hamper, wine, DVD player, chocolates. All welcome.

For further information contact George Jeffery on 01656 890386.

**Table top sale**

A TABLE top sale will be held on October 29 at St Athan Community Centre from 2pm-4pm.

Table £4 to hire. Contact Carol on 01446 730100, or Ann on 01446 754719 for details.

## Charity car boot

LLANTWIT Major Rugby Club will be the venue for a table top sale and car boot sale on October 29 at 10am-2pm. Proceeds go towards repairs to Mount Pleasant Church, Barry.

Admission £5 per car/£5 per table. Pay on the day. Contact 01446 796287 for details.

## Eisteddfod fundraising events

EVENTS to raise funds for the National Eisteddfod 2012 appeal are being held as follows:

Line dancing evening:

## FREE TASTER

Walk-in class for NEW BEGINNERS Latin DanceExercise Thursdays 7-8 pm No experience or dance partner All Welcome – Great Fun 07753 413 266 Barry Island Social Club 11 Redbrick Crescent

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Come to one of our weekly OPEN DAYS Every Thursday 10.30am-2pm - 4pm No need to book!

this Saturday, October 29 at 7.30pm, Llantwit Major. The local line dance group will be joined by the Mayor, Eddie Williams.

Bring food to share, and drinks for your own consumption. Dress in green, red or white!

Tickets prior to the event essential. Cost £6, contact Chas Allen for tickets on 01446 795875.

On November 7 at 7.30pm, Tales for a winter evening, in the Bovertown Castle pub, Bovertown.

Ghostly stories and haunting songs, performed by David Ambrose, storyteller and director of Beyond the Border Storytelling Festival. Entrance £5. Contact 01446 793530.

## Memorial service

ALL Souls Day services are being held on

November 2 at 10.30am in St Peter's Church, Rhoose and 7.30pm at St Curig's, Porthkerry, where departed loved ones will be remembered by name.

Forward names via website <http://theparishofporthkerryandrhoose.btck.co.uk> or call 01446 711713 to have names added to the list.

## Berry Merry Christmas!

THE Cowbridge and District Flower Arrangers Club meets at 7.30pm on

November 2 in the Lesser Hall, Cowbridge Town Hall, when Elizabeth Gordon will give a demonstration entitled 'A Very Berry Merry Christmas'.

Valeways walks

ON Wednesday, November 2 at 1.45pm,

'Coffee Shop Strollers' starting outside the Tourist Information Office, Barry Island.

Walks last 60-90 minutes except for extended walks which last up to two hours and the Coffee Shop Strollers, which is an easy walk which is accessible to all.

## St Helen's Church bazaar

THE parish of St Helen's Church, Barry, will be holding its annual bazaar on Saturday, November 5 at the Barry Memorial Hall.

Doors open at 1.30pm, admission 50p.

It will include traditional stalls, good value and quality as well as games and Mrs Christmas for the children.

## Zambia choir bring Praise from Africa



ABOVE: The Zambia Choir,

## £1,000 raised for the Wings appeal

FUNERAL Directors, A G Adams & Son, recently sponsored a magical musical evening in aid of RAFA Wings appeal.

A crowd of 180 were spellbound by the music provided by RAFA Concert Band, Tonyrefail Ladies Choir and Barry Male Voice Choir.

The evening raised over £1,000 for the Wings appeal.

Arthur Thompson, manager of the funeral home, said:

"We pride ourselves on our commitment to the community and were only too pleased to help with this very worthwhile concert to raise much needed funds, as well as enjoy a wonderful evening of quality entertainment."

## Family fun in the forest'

FOREST Schools & Play in the Vale are holding 'Family fun in the forest' sessions on Saturday, October 29 in Porthkerry Country Park.

Part of the Vale Play Forum, they are working with the Rangers as well as the Vale Play Development Team and Recreate.

Two-hour sessions at 10am and 1.30pm will allow children to bring their parents/carers to join in the fun!

"There'll be a fire to sit round, things to make and do and the best bit is, you choose what you

want to do when you get there. You should book by phoning 01446 733589, and there is a charge of £1 per person as a contribution towards costs, payable on the day," a spokesperson said.

More information at [www.forestschoowlawes.org](http://www.forestschoowlawes.org) or [www.foresteducationinitiative.org/](http://www.foresteducationinitiative.org/).

## Railway lecture

THE Vale of Glamorgan Railway Company (Barry Island Railway) will hold their monthly lecture at the Conservative Club, Station Street, Barry Dock on Thursday, October 27 at 7.30pm.

The subject is The Pembrokeshire Coalfield and the Saundersfoot Railway and it will be presented by Rev. Martin Connop-Price.

Many people will be surprised to learn that there was a flourishing coalfield in the southern part of Pembrokeshire, which was active until the early part of the 1950s.

Although on a far, far smaller scale than the great south Wales coalfield, it still played an important part in the life of the area.

Martin Connop-Price is the acknowledged expert on the history of the coalfield and has written several books on the subject.

## Clothes Show winners

THE winners of our recent competition to win a pair of tickets to the Clothes Show Live at Birmingham's NEC on Friday, December 7 were:

Ann Evans, Barry; Mrs K Rowe, Portcawl; and Chris May, Rhoose.

Congratulations to you all and look out for more great GEM competitions!

## Antique & Collectors Fair

at The Copthorne Hotel, Culverhouse Cross CF5 6DH.

Sunday 30th October

10am-4.30pm

Admission £1.50

Accompanied children free.

For further enquiries

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Saturday 3rd December  
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**Rotary Club of Barry Annual Fireworks**

**Barry Island**

**5th November**

**Superb Fireworks Synchronised to Music**

**Starts at 7.45pm**

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**THE VALE OF GLAMORGAN COUNCIL**  
**TEMPORARY ROAD CLOSURE ORDER, SECTION 16A**  
**ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984**

**BARRY ISLAND - FIREWORKS**

**SATURDAY 5th NOVEMBER 2011**

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Vale of Glamorgan Council have made an order under Section 16A Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984 as follows:-

WHEREAS during certain hours of the day and date specified in column 1 of the

Schedules hereto the streets or part thereof listed in column 2 of the said schedules will be used for the holding of a relevant event as described in Section 16(A)(1) of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984, the Council, pursuant to the powers conferred by Section 16A of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984 do HEREBY ORDER AND DIRECT in order to facilitate the holding of the event, enable members of the public to watch the said event and to reduce the disruption to traffic likely to be caused by the event the following regulations shall be observed:-

THAT, except as provided by the order, the said streets or parts thereof listed in schedule 1 shall be closed to all vehicular traffic including pedal cycles with the exception of Emergency Services and Coastguard vehicles between the hours specified in column 3 of schedule 1.

THAT, except as provided by the order, the said streets or parts thereof listed in schedule 2 shall be closed to all vehicular traffic including pedal cycles with the exception of Permit holding Residents', Public and Emergency Service Vehicles between the hours specified in column 3 of schedule 2. The penalty for infringement of the said regulation is a fine not exceeding £1000.00.

**Schedule 1**

**Column 1**

Saturday 5th  
November 2011

Paget Road between Harbour Road and its cul de sac end near the lifeguard station including the unnamed section of road to the side of No19 Paget Road (excluding the lane).

Station Approach Road throughout the length, including its gyratory at Whites Corner.

Breaksea Drive from its western junction with Adar-y-Mor to its junction with Station Approach Road.

Friars Road, between its junction with Station Approach Road and Paget Road

**Schedule 2**

**Column 1**

Saturday 5th  
November 2011

Westward Rise, Porth-Y-Castell, Bron A Welon, Tan-Y-Fron, Min-Y-Mor, Pen-Y-Bryn, Marine Drive, Trem-Y-Don, Swn-Y-Mor, Cliff Wood View and Bull Cliff Walk.

Local signed diversions shall be in place.  
Access for Pedestrians shall be maintained.

Dated this 27th day of October 2011.

M Punter, Head of Visible Services  
Vale of Glamorgan Council,  
The Alps, Wenvoe, CF5 6AA



# FIREWORK FIESTA AT BARRY ISLAND

## Barry Island gears up for the fun 'Fireworks Fiesta'

ONCE again, the Rotary Club of Barry is promising to bring an exceptional evening of fun and fireworks to Barry Island on

November 5. It will be the 38th 'Fireworks Fiesta'.

A spokesman explained: "We will be holding it whatever the weather brings, so please ignore any rumours to the con-

trary. By agreement with Pendragon Firework, based in Wales, this year's display should be bigger and better than ever.

"People should come along and enjoy themselves in what promises to be a wonderful evening of fun, fireworks and music.

"The fireworks will start at 7.45pm prompt, but to avoid the last-minute rush, we suggest arriving from 6pm.

"You will be able to enjoy the delights of the Island traders and the funfair before and after the main event."

The spokesman pointed out that parking is available in the main car parks for only £2 a vehicle. Limited disabled parking on Friars Road is also available.

"We implore everyone attending to donate at least £1 into the collecting buckets, as the future funding of this event is in doubt.

"If everyone gave at least £1, we could ensure the continuation of the event, and help deserving causes so much more.



ABOVE: Get ready for the fireworks fiesta at Barry Island next Saturday night!

08457 48 49 50.  
Hood Road Train Service: The Barry Tourist Railway will be operating a train service from the Hood Road Station to Barry Island Station from 6pm-9pm.

Parking is free at Hood Road and a small charge applies for the return train journey.

The spokesman concluded: "The Rotary Club of Barry apologises to the residents of Barry Island for the inconvenience caused during the road closure period (5.30pm-9.30pm)."

### Barry Town Council Cyngor Tref Y Barri

Councillor Bronwen Brooks, the Mayor of Barry, and Members of the Council wish the *Barry Rotary Firework Display* a very successful and safe evening

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# Man airlifted to safety at Southerndown beach

RESCUE services were scrambled on Tuesday (October 25) this week when a man became trapped by the incoming tide at cliffs in Southerndown.

At about 4.30pm, the HM Coastguard Search and Cliff Rescue team, based in Llantwit Major, were called out to the 23-year-old man when he became cut off on a walk from Ogmore-by-Sea to Southerndown.

A spokesman said: "The rescue was a multi-agency response, which was overseen remotely by the Maritime Co-ordination Centre in Swansea and also involved Porthcawl Coastguards, RNLI Porthcawl, RAF

Rescue 169, South Wales Police and the Police helicopter.

"The casualty, who became stuck on a ledge due to the rising tide, was airlifted to safety by the helicopter, which then landed at a site prepared by the Coastguards before returning to its base at Chivenor."

Robin Jackson, station officer of the Llantwit Major Coastguard team, sounded a warning to anyone out walking on the coast:

"This is another example where along our coastline the speed of incoming tides is not fully understood, and individuals often unknowingly place themselves in danger."



ABOVE: The man is airlifted to safety.

## Council planning appeal is a 'surprise' for Vale MP

THE Vale MP, Alun Cairns, has expressed his "surprise" that the Bridgend County Borough Council (BCBC) is lodging an appeal against its neighbouring local authority – the Vale of Glamorgan.

The planning appeal concerns the Ogmore Residential Centre at Ogmore by Sea, which

is owned by BCBC, but is within the planning boundaries of the Vale Council.

The appeal follows the decision by the Vale Council to refuse planning permission for the demolition of existing buildings and redevelopment of the site for residential purposes.

Mr Cairns came out against the plans to build 84 houses on the site of the former education

centre in Ogmore by Sea back in 2010.

The MP has previously stated that, in his view, the development is out of scale with the village and would adversely affect its character.

Mr Cairns said this week: "I'm surprised and disappointed that one democratic organisation has lodged an appeal against another.

"The access is unsuitable for a development of this size, the whole thing is too big."

"A smaller development on the site could be acceptable, but villagers are very unhappy about these proposals, and any plan would need to include community facilities."

Mr Cairns is also critical of the tight grip that the Welsh Government has imposed on planning authorities.

He continued: "Local authorities have been put into a strait jacket by all the regulations imposed by the Welsh Government."

"However, I was pleased that the Vale Council listened to residents' concerns and followed its own planning policies and turned down the original application."

"As our running costs are paid for by public donation, we need the public's help more than ever."

"We hope that visitors to the festival will spare a thought for the children at Ty Hafan and buy a ticket."

## FOODIES CAN SHOW SUPPORT FOR TY HAFAN!

ONE lucky visitor to the Cowbridge Food and Drink Festival could be heading home with a hamper – packed full of the best festival produce!

It's the star prize in a raffle, organised by The GEM, and in aid of Ty Hafan, the hospice in Sully for children with life-limiting medical conditions.

Volunteers from Ty Hafan will be at the festival all weekend, and tickets are only £1. As

exhibitors have been most generous in their support, the winner will be taking home a real treat.

A spokesman for Ty Hafan told The GEM: "This year, there has been a noticeable increase in families who have been referred to us."

"As our running costs are paid for by public donation, we need the public's help more than ever."

"We hope that visitors to the festival will spare a thought for the children at Ty Hafan and buy a ticket."

## Lions' thanksgiving

THE Lions' thanksgiving service on October 9 at Cadoxton Methodist Church was very well attended and included Jane Hutt AM, together with four mayors – the Mayor of Devizes and members of the Town Council, and the Mayors of Fishguard, Barry, and Penarth.

The Mayor of the Vale was due to attend but was unfortunately unwell and had to cancel.

Bearing in mind that last year's thanksgiving was held at Brecon Cathedral, Barry Lions Club was proud to be invited to organise this year's event and were delighted that the service and the buffet following was well received.

David Langford, Barry and Penarth Lions Club.

## Charity coffee in Rhoose

A REPORT last week about a coffee morning held by Mrs S Hardy of Rhoose did not include the information that it was in aid of Macmillan Cancer Support.

Mrs Hardy told The GEM: "Further donations over the last week have increased the total cash raised to £684.50."

## Vale AM's surgery

THE Vale AM Jane Hutt, will be holding a surgery on Saturday, October 29 from 10am to 12noon at the Vale of Glamorgan Citizens Advice Bureau in Barry at 119 Broad Street CF62 7TZ. No appointment necessary.

## DINNER DANCE

THE Parish of Penarth All Saints is holding a fundraising dinner dance with auction of promises on Saturday, November 19 in the Paget Rooms.

All proceeds go to the building project currently nearing completion. Tickets available from Mel Griffin on 029 2071 2301 or from Foxy's del-



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## How to keep healthy, safe and warm – as winter weather approaches

WHILE most of us are holding on to the last days of sunshine, a local warmth scheme is encouraging residents in the Vale with cold or damp-related illnesses, to think ahead and ensure their homes are prepared for the winter before the cold weather returns.

npower 'Health Through Warmth', which is managed locally by the Vale Council, aims to help people whose health is made worse by cold and damp living conditions as a result of inadequate heating and insulation in their

homes. Illnesses that can be adversely affected by cold and damp living conditions include respiratory and cardiovascular disorders, diabetes, arthritis, terminal illness, mental health issues and mobility difficulties.

npower's Health Through Warmth scheme may be able to assist with the installation of cavity wall and loft insulation, boiler repair or replacement, heating systems and appliances, as well as provide relevant advice and information.

(CONTINUED  
ON PAGE 19)





# RoSPA CALLS FOR TIME CHANGE WITH DARK NIGHTS DRAWING IN

**W**ITH the dark nights drawing in, RoSPA has renewed calls for a change in the way the UK operates 'winter time'.

For decades, the Royal Society for the Prevention of Accidents has been at the forefront of a crusade to give the country an extra hour of evening daylight – citing research that shows lighter nights would save 80 lives and prevent more than 200 serious injuries on our roads each year.

Apart from the avoidance of grief and suffering, the organisation argues that fewer road accidents would also bring considerable annual savings to taxpayers.

RoSPA believes the clock change campaign is closer to succeeding now than at any time since 1970, thanks to Rebecca Harris MP's Private Members' Bill – which passed its second reading in Parliament last December with a huge majority.

To help the Bill clear the next hurdle, RoSPA is calling on the public to help convince Westminster of its popularity.

People can also do this by clicking the 'Support Our Campaign' button at [www.rospa.com/about/currentcampaigns/lighter-evenings/](http://www.rospa.com/about/currentcampaigns/lighter-evenings/).

If successful, the Bill will lead to the Government carrying out a cross-departmental analysis of the benefits of Single/Double Summer Time (GMT+1 in winter / GMT+2 in summer) – which in turn could trigger a three-year trial.

Tom Mullarkey, RoSPA's chief executive, said: "Now that darkness is about to descend – and with an almost inevitable spike in road accidents at twilight, we need to rekindle the debate."

"With Rebecca Harris's Daylight Saving Bill about to be discussed in the House of Commons again, it's time to see some democracy in action."

He pointed out: "At a time of extraordinary government spending cuts, you would think that politicians would read the 2009

Department for Transport report, which showed that the implementation of this measure would cost the department £5million – but save £138million that year and every year thereafter."

Mr Mullarkey said his concern was that no UK party appeared willing to risk its Scottish vote by promoting the issue, because they feared they might weaken their share of the vote north of the border – especially while there was talk of a referendum on independence.

He argued: "So we may as well describe it for what it is: a political calculation at a senior level, taking away these potential benefits from 60 million people, so that party electoral stability, and the strength of the Union, can be protected, or at least not put to the test."

RoSPA claims that if a trial was successful we would end up:

- **Healthier** – because we would have more evening daylight to take exercise and be outside
- **Wealthier** – because we would save money on electricity, inject £3billion into the economy through tourism and create 60,000 new jobs (if ever we needed that fillip, now is the time!)
- **More secure** – because our elderly would have an hour shorter winter "curfew" and evening crime would fall
- **Safer** – because 80 lives would be saved on the roads per year and 212 serious injuries avoided
- **Greener** – because we would reduce our carbon emissions by 450,000 tons per year, equivalent to 85 per cent of all the renewable energy we currently generate, enough to power two-thirds of Glasgow.

## Prepare for months ahead

(CONTINUED  
FROM PAGE 18)

Health Through Warmth launched in the Vale in 2003, and to date 2,700 local vulnerable residents have been referred to the scheme for help with heating and insulation measures.

A total of £3.2 million has been levered to secure funding for the measures required, which includes more than £48,000 from charitable organisations.

In addition, nearly £180,000 has been accessed from the unique RWE npower Health Through Warmth Crisis Fund.

Elaine Midwinter, npower Health Through Warmth scheme manager, comments: "Now is a good time for residents to check that their heating is in good working order.

"Residents can ensure that they are prepared when the temperature drops, giving them peace of

mind that they can stay warm and comfortable in their homes during the cold winter months."

*But to keep safe and sound this winter, it is not just about keeping warm.*

Now is the time people should think about having any outside lights checked or fixed to ensure there are no avoidable accidents in the darkness.

Reliable lighting doesn't just help in terms of physical safety, it also provides a measure of security for households.

Now is also the time to make sure that damaged paths and steps are dealt with – before the snowy spells arrive.

Outside maintenance is essential in making sure that both residents and

visitors don't suffer a nasty fall. Again, with poor weather predicted, the advice to those who rely on deliveries of fuel is to make sure you have sufficient supplies for as long as possible.

*For more information on the Health Through Warmth scheme, please visit [www.healththrough-warmth.com](http://www.healththrough-warmth.com).*



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# Local councils given a tough grant settlement

The Welsh Government has announced how much 'core funding' it will be giving to local councils, as they plan their budget for next year (2012/13).

Local Government Minister Carl Sergeant announced that both Bridgend County Borough Council (BCBC) and the Vale Council will get slight rises.

He said: "Despite the budget reductions imposed on Wales by the UK Government, I am increasing slightly the cash funding of local authorities in the coming years."

However, that increase is slight, with the Vale Council getting 0.2 per cent more – moving from £150,597,000 to £150,872,000.

BCBC gets a 0.5 per cent rise, from £178,692,000 to £179,649,000.

Mr Sergeant went on to say: "To protect schools, the settlement includes an increase in funding for education of around £80 million by 2014-15."

"There is also an increase of £35 million to enable councils to meet the pressure on vital social services for the young and old during these difficult times."

As there are 22 local authorities in Wales, the Minister appears to be saying that, after the £80million is split between the councils, there is just short of £4 million extra for schools.

Similarly, after the £35 million for social services is divided, he is arguing that councils will get £1.5 million extra.

Clearly, he expects cuts to be made in other parts of the councils' budgets. He closed by saying that it would be possible for councils, if they chose, to freeze council tax bills.

## Nothing humerus about the Canon's broken bone!

CANON Derek Belcher, Rector of Holy Cross Church, is recovering from a broken arm – sustained when he was running downstairs to answer the door.

Canon Belcher told The GEM that he slipped on his way downstairs last week and "heard a sharp crack" as he put his arm out to break his fall.

He said: "I have broken my humerus, and I am in quite a bit of pain at the moment.

"I am taking painkillers, but I will be back in church for the Eucharist Service."

He added that the pain at the time of the accident had been "excruciating".

The accident has had another unfortunate side effect, because it has meant the cancellation

of an operation that Canon Belcher was due to have on his kidney.

He said: "I told my congregation some time ago, that I was due to have an operation to remove a tumour from my left kidney.

"That will now have to be rescheduled, depending on the advice I get this week from the consultant looking at my arm."

However, Canon Belcher told The GEM that he was not concerned about the delay, as he had been told that the kidney operation could be safely put off.

## Lions give thanks

THE Lions' thanksgiving service on October 9 at Cadoxton Methodist Church was very well attended and included Jane Hutt AM, together with four mayors, the Mayor of Devizes and members of the Town Council, and the Mayors of Fishguard, Barry, and Penarth.

St Cyres School, is therefore, not contributing to any "depletion of wildlife". On the contrary, our sixth form pupils recently won a national competition and spent several days studying the wildlife on the Galapagos Islands.

Full risk assessments were carried out, in conjunction with a variety of parties at the planning stage.

In addition, the balloons released were non-toxic, made of natural materials and are biodegradable.

Dr Jonathan Hicks, headteacher, St Cyres School.

In response to Mr G Owen's recent letter, regarding our Welsh Baccalaureate balloon launch last month, I can assure him that St Cyres School takes environmental education very seriously indeed.

All of our pupils have Education for Sustainable Development and Global Citizenship written into their curriculum, and we begin this work in the first week that our new year-7 pupils enter the school.

We run a thriving Eco-School group, which promotes recycling both inside and outside the school site, and the youngsters have been closely involved in working with the design team for the new St

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# Festival time – and Cowbridge puts on its best face for visitors

EXCITEMENT is building for this weekend's Cowbridge Food and Drink Festival, and traders in the town are keen to welcome new visitors.

The festival, of course, has been a huge success, and organisers have been amazed at the steady flow of suppliers wanting to display their produce, with four or five requests arriving every day, long after the list was finalised some weeks ago.

The festival director, Polly Wilson, told The GEM that, with more space, many more stall holders could have been included.

She said: "It has meant that we have been able to place the

emphasis on quality and variety. Visitors will not see a number of producers selling the same things."

Quality and variety, of course, is the hallmark of shopping in Cowbridge, and visitors will find it well worth casting their eye around the town, and browsing around the shops, as well as looking for new culinary experiences.

In fact, for many local traders, the whole purpose of the food and drink festival is highlighting what a unique and special town it is – a rarity these days!

Even if they are too busy stocking up on gourmet food, or won't find in the off licence, visitors are often inspired to make several return trips to enjoy the relaxed pace of shopping in Cowbridge.

Of course, relaxed is not quite the word for the buzz that surrounds festival weekend, which has all the old favourites back.

Polly Wilson said: "We were particularly delighted that the Quarter Penny Cafe stepped in to run the champagne bar this year.

"It had lost its sponsor, but it is a highlight of the weekend, and we would welcome a new sponsor next year."

She continued: "These days, people have a real hunger for more information about cooking, so we are delighted that the sponsorship of Sigma 3 Kitchens has enabled us to put together such an exciting programme of demonstrations that feature a host of skilled chefs."

The Sigma 3 demonstration area will see a new expert taking the stand every hour or so, each in the capable hands of TV presenter Frances Donovan.

And while their area of expertise may vary, they all have one important thing in common – an unquenchable enthusiasm for food!

However, if a visitor wants to expand his or her knowledge of wine, beer, cider, or even coffee, the talks presented by Richard Ballantyne in the town hall will do just that.

Another part of the festival that has expanded is that offering entertainment for children who might get bored touring the stalls.

Polly Wilson said: "The entertainment zone, based at the Barefoot Studio in Eastgate, has a wide range of exciting workshops that will keep any child fascinated.

"Ever since we launched the festival, the aim has always been to make it a family day out, and the entertainment zone makes that aim a reality."

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# S&K Haulage (Glamorgan) Ltd

## CELEBRATE 40 YEARS ON THE ROAD



**S&K HAULAGE STANDS THE TEST OF TIME...  
A Barry family business that has now  
achieved an international reputation**

**S**&K Haulage is an inspirational success story which spans 40 years and is an example of what can be achieved with initiative, drive and lots of hard work.

The company's story started in 1971 when a newly married technician dreamed of running his own business and began providing transport for local firms courtesy of his trusty Bedford KM truck.

Fast forward to 2011 and that man, Barry born and bred Neil Kidby, and his wife Linda, have created a thriving international business.

S&K Haulage, based at Barry docks, employs 160 people and its fleet of vehicles are a familiar sight, criss-crossing the motorways of Britain and the rest of Europe for S&K's blue-chip clients.

Andy Chucas, the company's business development manager, who was one of Neil's first apprentices in 1979, said: "It is a real rags to riches story, of a man starting with a single vehicle and developing it into the major business it is today.

"Neil is a real workaholic and Linda, who is the company secretary, has been a huge support.

"It is a true family concern – Neil and Linda's sons David, James and Lloyd are all part of the team.

"There are also people at S&K Haulage

who have left school in Barry and been with the company all their working lives."

### Reliable service

Despite the highs and lows of the country's economy over the last 40 years, the firm has constantly evolved and expanded.

Building on a reputation for reliable service and fulfilling delivery targets, one truck in 1971 became a fleet of nine vehicles in the early 1980s, 25 vehicles in the mid 1980s, including flatbeds, tractor units and trailers, and by the late 80s a fleet of 65 vehicles.

The growing business needed a bigger site than the one it occupied on Atlantic Trading Estate, and a move took place to a three acre complex on David Davies Road. Since then, it has been hugely developed and is the company's flag ship site.

By this time S&K Haulage was not only a major transporter of goods, it was a special

ist player in the chemical haulage industry, and a subsidiary 'Barry Storage' had been formed and was a leader in south Wales storage options.

It had even started a specialist tanker division which also runs to this day.

### 'Supportive'

Neil's son James, who works on the logistics side, has literally grown up with the business.

He explained: "I can remember coming down with my dad when he worked from a small office.

"My younger brother Lloyd and I used to help cleaning up – David, my older brother, was already helping too."

David is now a senior director who is instrumental in running the company, and will one day follow Neil as the managing director and its figurehead.

James paid tribute to his mother's role in ensuring S&K's ongoing success.

"My mum has been supportive of my dad throughout. On school-days, she used to drop us off and then come in for the day to sort out things like the wages before picking us up at the end of the day."

"Dad was a workaholic, constantly at the business, everything

was tied up with it. He was very single-minded and strong willed.

"One thing I recall is that my dad was a 'last minute' man for holidays with mum organising the packing before we went!"

"Despite his dedication to the business, he was able to switch off when it came to family life and took time to take us to sports events

– Lloyd played hockey for Wales' under 18s."

Since the 1990s, S&K Haulage has consolidated its reputation as a major international haulier, employing more people, increasing the size of its fleet and providing an expanding service to clients home and abroad.

(CONTINUED  
ON PAGE 24)



ABOVE: Red letter day – staff celebrate the opening of the VOSA accredited ATF (authorised testing facility).



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# S&K Haulage (Glamorgan) Ltd

## CELEBRATE 40 YEARS ON THE ROAD



## 'Looking forward to challenge of the day'

**Setting new bench marks and looking forward to the challenge of the day** is part of S&K Haulage's philosophy,' explained Andy Chucas, the business development manager.

The buzz and energy at the company's headquarters is evident across the site, from the reception area, to the planning and logistics department and then out into the main yard where the vehicle maintenance and testing buildings are.

What is astonishing is how clean and tidy the buildings are – no tyre marks on the floors, which are protected with mats, no stray tools or equipment; in fact a pristine environment.

### ATF facility

A major new bench mark the company achieved earlier this year is the £350,000 investment in a Vehicle and Operator Services Agency

accredited MoT test and maintenance station – known as an ATF, an authorised testing facility.

The project has delivered a state-of-the-art building with two lanes. Vehicles are driven in, checked and worked on using the 23-metre long pits, tested, and then driven out the other end.

With VOSA encouraging companies to take on the responsibility of testing, S&K Haulage saw it as a big positive, ending the days of having to take its vehicles to Llantrisant for their tests, and reducing the company's carbon footprint.

It means that not only is the company geared up to do third party work; it means taking maintenance to a new level and ensuring its Volvo fleet is kept in tip-top condition.

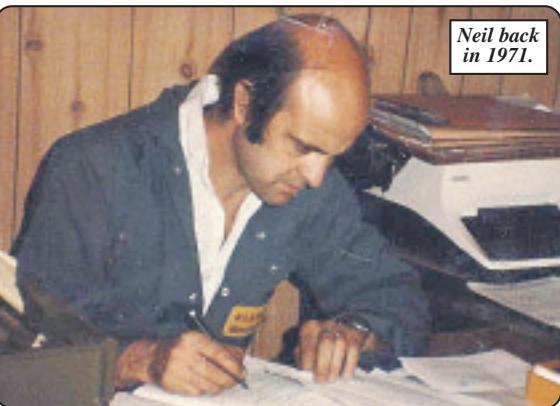


ABOVE:  
For checking, the trucks are driven into the testing facility which has 23-metre long pits.

RIGHT:  
Andy Chucas, the business development manager, with a vehicle which proclaims S&K Haulage's successful 40 years.



## S&K Haulage is international!



Neil back in 1971.

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 23)

It operates more than 100 tractor units, 200 trailers, and provides warehousing, packaging and transportation across Britain and Europe.

For logistical reasons, 10 of its employees are based on the Continent, but the vast majority live in Barry or in the south Wales area. Continuity of employment is also important with long service employees, like Beryl Eveleigh, who has been the accounts manager for 22 years.

S&K Haulage is a local success story that proves inspired leadership and a solid foundation can build a company that stands the test of time!

ABOVE: Neil hard at work in the early days, and below with his Bedford KM truck.



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# S&K Haulage (Glamorgan) Ltd

## CELEBRATE 40 YEARS ON THE ROAD



### S&K Haulage's fleet travels length and breadth of Europe



FLAGSHIP HQ's  
VITAL SERVICE  
FOR ECONOMY



S&K Haulage's flagship Barry headquarters is home to a fleet which transports goods and chemicals for British companies to countries across Europe and back, providing a vital service for the south Wales economy.



### 'Geared up for the challenges of 21st century transport'

IN developing and planning an authorised testing facility (ATF) S&K Haulage is fulfilling a number of ambitions set out by the Vehicle and Operator Services Agency.

VOSA was formed in 2003, with the aim of providing licensing, testing and enforcement services – to improve the standards of vehicles on our roads.

The agency has now decided there are benefits to the idea of transforming the way testing of vehicles is carried out, by literally taking testing facilities to the customer.

In building its own ATF, S&K Haulage bought into the idea of being able to test on its own non-VOSA private site on David Davies Road.

Enabling companies to do this has a number of plus points.

There are savings in



terms of cost because the vehicles can be tested 'at home' meaning they have less down time and they are not having to be driven to a VOSA facility.

The main purpose of having its own ATF was so that S&K Haulage could ensure it was doing its utmost to reduce carbon footprint. Local companies can also use the testing facilities at their nearest designated ATF, again reducing emissions and congestion on the roads.

Fewer re-tests are expected because maintenance and testing is expected to be done in the same place.

*S&K Haulage's ATF means it is geared up for the 21st century challenges of the transport industry.*



**S&K Haulage**  
are proud to announce  
due to continuous  
expansion the following  
vacancies:

- **LGV C+E drivers for the UK and Continental Routes**
- **Time served HGV Technicians for Heavy and Light Commercial**
- **Class IV and V11 MoT tester**

Should you wish to apply for any of the advertised positions please contact:

**Andy Chucas** for Technical positions  
Email: [ac@skhaulage.net](mailto:ac@skhaulage.net)  
Tel: 01446 422100

**Andy Donnelly** for driving positions  
Email: [ad@skhaulage.net](mailto:ad@skhaulage.net)  
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# It makes sense to save time on your computer

In this busy world, it pays to be efficient at what we do.

The more work we do with the same effort, or in the same time, the more efficient we are. Deciding not to do something at all is being less productive; not being able to do it anyway is being less effective.

I am sometimes surprised that a person who has been computing for years is unaware of a simple tip that could save a lot of effort.

Now that computers perform at blistering speeds, most of the time we take to do anything depends on the time involved in operating the mouse or using the keyboard.

It follows that if we need fewer clicks or key-strokes we become more efficient.

We can spend the time saved on getting more done or just relaxing.

I previously mentioned many ways of adjusting windows on the screen.

Familiarity with them enables rapid rearrangement for easier access when using multiple windows.

Alt+Tab, enables rapid switching between

## PENARTH COMPUTER CLUB NEWS

full-screen windows.

Keyboard shortcuts can replace mouse clicks.

This means not having to take your fingers away from the keyboard; find the mouse; find the pointer; move the pointer and click several times and return to the keyboard when you have finished.

Look up keyboard shortcuts in the help file.

Out of many available, you will find great timesavers in whatever you do.

You can also make up some of your own.

Understanding the scroll bar can save time.

The length of the slider indicates the portion of the whole picture that you can see in the window.

You can click on the slider and drag it up or down to see other parts of the document.

Click in the channel above or below the slider to go up or down a window-height at a time.

Clicking the up or down indicator at the top or bottom of the channel will move the document up or down a line at a

time. If your mouse has a scroll button, that is even more convenient.

If you are not friends with the Format Painter and you like to use effects in your documents, you should get to know it.

Whatever complicated properties you give to an object, whether it is text, a spreadsheet cell or an AutoShape, the properties of one can be painted onto another in three clicks.

The Format Painter button carries a picture of a paintbrush on it.

Organise your files to make them easy to find. Instead of allowing each programme to use its default location, instruct them to store them where you want them; preferably in sub-folders under a master folder for ease of backing them up.

The above suggestions are worthy of far more space to do them justice.

*The next meeting is on November 8 at All Saints Lesser Hall, Victoria Square, Penarth, 7.30pm for 8pm.*

*Chris will review the basics of home networks and their security.*

*Visitors welcome. For more information ring me on 029 20708439.*

HOWARD DESMOND

## Golfers raise total of £2,210 for local Cancer Care Unit

RECENTLY, 56 golfers were at Cottrell Park Golf Club to raise money for Llandough Hospital's Breast Cancer Care Unit.

Stan Marcola, Mike Downs and Brian Pritchard.

Martin Evans, a 15 handicapper, was the individual runner up with 39 points.

Other winners on the day were as follows: Ladies nearest the pin (eighth hole) – Carole Duncanson; Men's nearest the pin (15th hole) – Simon Hoggett; Ladies longest drive (18th hole) – Karen Campbell-Ace; Men's longest drive (18th hole) – James Roberts; Best endeavour – Alastair Wardell.

The format for the event was a team of four, with a twist of the best two and the worst stableford scores to count.

A club spokeswoman said: "All prizes for the day were donated by Meirion and Kim Chesney, who have been fantastic supporters of charity events for many years."

"Without their generosity, the event would not have been the success that it was."

The day started with bright sunshine and the course in superb condition.

Local player Alan Bromley went on to win the individual stableford Prize with 40 points.

The winning team with a score of 102 points were Craig Wilson, Steve Jones, Bernie Bull and Alan Bromley.

The second placed team, with a score of 100, were: Will Hoggett, Terry Hoggett, Simon Hoggett and Johnny Hoggett.

In third, with 98 points, were Mike Ruck,

## IN BRIEF Valeways walks

ON Sunday, October 30, Dave's Railway walk starts in Penarth Cliff Top car park at 2pm.

Contact 07971 695780.

*On Sunday, November 6 at 2.30pm, Views along the Ely Valley, starting at the footbridge west of Peterston Super Ely (ST 081761). Details from 07854 526117.*

*Tuesday, November 8 at 1.30pm, Salmon Leaps via Cwm George. Start at St Peter's Church, Mill Road, Dinas Powys. Contact 07889 522321.*

**Barry U3A**

THE next meeting will be on Monday,

*November 7 in Barry Library at 2pm,*

*when the speaker will be Hilary Minto on 'Life in the BBC National Orchestra of Wales'.*

*For further information, contact Lyn on 01446 721328 or John on 01446 413328.*

## Ty Hafan lottery draw winners

THE following are winning numbers in the Ty Hafan Crackerjackpot lottery draw number D 693.

● The rollover, which now stands at £2,000, was not won this week.

● £2,000: 988419. 761444; 534836;

● £10: 359779; 312875; 230395;

809846; 708989; 462240; 728464;

542009; 690795; 116885; 304333;

247970; 552977; 504069; 136639;

203140; 822037; 685870; 698589;

467854; 981562; 826137; 895869;

784509; 183332; 153624; 444718; 819091; 447193;

647380; 519557; 394045; 161218;

313270. 761444; 534836;

331603.

*The GEM cannot be held responsible for any errors or omissions contained in the above.*

*For lottery information please telephone 029 2067 2062.*

## Beach clean-up

ENVIRONMENTAL group 'Friends of Barry Beaches', is holding its next beach clean on Sunday, October 30 at Watchtower Bay – meeting adjacent to the beach at 3pm.

All the volunteers will spend an hour helping to clean the beach, but should wrap up warm and wear sturdy boots.

Last month's litter pick at Porthkerry saw the eco-group celebrate its first year, with around 20 volunteers spending a productive hour helping to remove fishing line, plastic bottles, drink cans, nylon rope and glass from the beach.

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To find out more about  
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**Thursday  
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2pm - 8pm**

## Would you like straighter teeth?

The Invisalign technique is the clinically accepted, nearly invisible way to straighten your teeth and improve your smile **WITHOUT BRACES**.

It works through a series of clear and removable aligners that almost no one will tell you are wearing.



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## Would you like whiter teeth?

We have a variety of methods of professional and safe Tooth Whitening treatments to suit your budget.

If you feel that your teeth have lost their whiteness or have become discoloured this is the ideal opportunity to discuss the results you could achieve.

### Prices start from £179 for tooth whitening

We are offering half price tooth whitening to all our Clients who book Invisalign on our Open Days.

Terms and Conditions apply please ask for more information.

Come along for a free, relaxed consultation and enjoy a complimentary drink and nibbles.

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Dr Owain B Joynson BDS (Wales 1995)

Associate Dentists:

Dr Rebecca L James BDS (Wales 2004),

Dr Smeehna Mohandas BDS (India 2000)

Statutory Exam (2006),

Dr Joanna Wright BDS (London 1992)

Practice Manager:

Gemma Woodfield



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[porthkerrydental@btconnect.com](mailto:porthkerrydental@btconnect.com)



# Hearing Aid Open Day

## at Scott Wroe Hearing Centre, Penarth



If you are having difficulty with your hearing or experiencing problems with your current hearing aid come and see your local independent hearing centre who can help.

We are holding open days throughout October and November and appointments are available between 9.00am and 5.00pm.

During the open days we will be there to advise and demonstrate the most recent advances in discreet behind the ear and in the ear hearing aids as well as answering any questions you may have.

For example:

- How good or bad is my hearing?**
- What type of hearing aids are there?**
- How do they work?**
- How much are they?**
- Which ones are best for me?**

We will also be demonstrating Live Speech Mapping which allows us to show you how effective hearing aids are in assisting your hearing loss using real time speech. You will be able to see how speech is reaching your eardrum after being processed via our wall mounted display.

There will also be a number of free hearing tests available, so if you would like your hearing assessed, your ears examined or your current hearing aid checked please contact us to arrange an appointment.

- **FREE** Hearing test and consultation (Normally £15.00)
- Independent advice
- Try the very latest hearing products from the leading manufacturers Phonak, Widex and Oticon
- See What You Hear with the latest in Speech Mapping technology enabling you to see if your hearing aid is correctly programmed for your hearing loss



For more information or to arrange your free appointment please call 02920 707760 or call in to Scott Wroe Hearing Centre, 1 Station Approach, Penarth, Vale of Glamorgan CF64 3EE (Free parking opposite the shop).

News from PENARTH & DISTRICT RAMBLERS

## Two walks in the autumn sunshine...

**A** part of Woodland Walks Week, Geraint and his sheepdog Patch, and four walkers with dogs Timothy, Bracken and Bronte, left the Twyn in Dinas Powys on the journey up to the local golf club.

Crossing the fairway, they entered woodland which led them down to the stunning beech wood at the bottom of Cwm George where leaves were floating down as the autumn sunshine streamed through the branches.

Walking through Cwm George, with its steep cliffs at the top end, the group paused momentarily at the bench dedicated to Geraint's father, George Thomas, who began the Dinas Powys village walks many years ago.

At Park Wood was a stunning view of Cwrt-y-Ala House, derived from the Welsh version of the Court of Raleigh, once owned by the de Reigney family, and then passing through marriage to the Raleigh family of Devon (related to Sir Walter).

### Roadworks round-up

Severn Avenue, Barry – temporary traffic control. A48 near Aubrey Arms – temporary traffic control.

Port Road West from the junction of Colcot Road to Meggit Road, Barry – temporary traffic control.

Porthkerry Road, Rhosneigr (from the roundabout near the Holiday Inn) to the unnamed lane to Porthkerry – temporary traffic control.

Port Road junction with Pencoedtire Lane, Barry – temporary traffic control.

Frampton Lane, Llantwit Major – temporary traffic control.

Exiting from the wood, the group headed downhill to misty views across to Flat and Steep Holm and the English coastline before returning to the village.

Four walkers, and dogs Bracken and Bronte, joined Val at All Saints Church the following day of woodland walks and headed downhill past the Gorsedd stones erected on the triangle when the National Eisteddfod was held at Romilly Park in 1920.

Crossing to Birch Grove wood, they followed the path through a series of man-made steps uphill, to emerge onto the green at Marine Drive where there were clear views across to Weston-super-Mare, Barry Docks, Cold Knap and the pebble beach below them.

They reached the sunken lane that runs to the rear of the Garden Suburb and turned downhill through Lover's Lane to reach the remains of Cliffwood Cottage, built in 1583 and later owned by Ann Jenkins, who allegedly was a witch.

Entering paths through Knockmoundown Wood, they followed the road up to the Millwood, to pass the old ruined sawmill, and then crossing the Nant Talwg brook headed uphill through the estate to reach the top of Cwm Bari and make their return back to Park Road.

*On October 29, meet at 9am at Cogan Leisure Centre for an 11-mile hard walk at Partrishow; contact Barrie on 029 2053 0753.*

*On October 30, meet at 9am at the Barry Waterfront for a 6-mile mod/hard walk at Blaenavon; contact Janet John on 01446 418514.*

*Membership advice can be obtained from Pam on 029 2021 9102, JOY STRANGWARD*

### PACT meetings

**DYFAN PACT**, 10am and 12 noon today (October 27) at Colcot Community Centre, Keats Way, Barry.

**GIBBONS DOWN PACT**, 10.30am on November 16 at the Residents Board Office, Cychurch Rise, Barry.

**LLANTWIT MAJOR PACT**, local leisure centre on November 8 at 7pm.

**LLANDOUGH PACT**, Llandough Memorial Hall on November 10 at 7pm.

**THE Dinas Powys branch of the RNLI is holding its annual 'Breakfast Roll' on Saturday, November 5 at the Lee Hall, Dinas Powys at 8.30am-11.30am, serving fruit juice, fruit bread, croissants and tea/coffee.**

**Tickets are available from committee members or at the door. RNLI Christmas cards and calendars will be on sale, and there will be a raffle.**

# The Glamorgan GEM's monthly Food for thought

Showcase your menus and offers here...



## HESTON DISTILLS HIS TIPS INTO A SMALLER TOME

**H**ESTON BLUMENHAL is the chef who sets the trends that filter down to the nation's restaurants and his innovative approach to cooking is de-mystified in his latest book *Heston Blumenthal At Home*.

If you want to see food through Heston Blumenthal's eyes, pop a biscuit in your mouth, pinch your nose and breath in.

It won't taste of much, because flavour comes entirely via 'aroma molecules', he explained. But it's the kind of experiment that inspires his day-to-day cooking and has helped him to turn dining out into a quixotic art form.

In *Heston Blumenthal At Home*, the three-Michelin-starred chef attempts to lay bare his thought processes, without recourse to the epic commands contained in his seminal 532-page *Big Fat Duck Cookbook* of three years ago.

To recap, his bacon and ice cream mixture needed to infuse for 10 hours, then mature for another 10, before you poured on liquid nitrogen!

This time sizzling culinary facts - both technical and trivial - intermingle with easy-to-imitate recipes, mostly confined to one page of text.

"If you ask me for my guilty pleasure, it's prawn cocktail," said Blumenthal.

"When I was growing up in the Seventies, you could only get one type of pasta, and you could only get olive oil from chemists - but that's not to say there wasn't food from that era you didn't grow to love. For me, it's prawn cocktail."

"When I get home late, after working in the Fat Duck, there's nothing I like better than to raid the fridge for it.

"Being such an addict, I'm deeply resistant to attempts to muck around with the ingredients, but putting a little chopped basil and tarragon into the mix introduces some fresh, lively extra flavour; as does scraping the seeds from a vanilla pod and adding them to the mayonnaise.

"It's funny, as we think of vanilla as sweet, but if you chew a vanilla pod, it's as bitter as cof-

fee."

Reading his cookbook, it's easy to get absorbed by his bold tactics.

Even if you do think spraying Kirsch into the air to accompany your Black Forest gateau, or smearing fan blades with a maritime scent to accentuate the flavour of your salmon dish, might be going too far.

"I'm a bit weird," admits Blumenthal, as he analyses why he

cooks in such extreme terms, and dreams up dishes such as snail porridge.

"We've got a psychometric test we do for staff, and I thought, 'I'll do it myself'.

"It tends to put people into two categories - creative or logical. I'm literally chalk and cheese. I'm left-handed with chopping and writing - in everything else, right-handed."

*This could well explain how his madly creative impulses sit so easily alongside a love of rational, scientific exploration!*

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**PAN-SEARED SWORDFISH LOIN**

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**SLOW BRAISED BELLY PORK**

on bubble & squeak with baby carrots & onion & thyme sauce

**ROASTED SALMON FILLET**

set on a crab, lemon & tarragon risotto

**ROASTED BUTTERNUT SQUASH & RED PEPPER TARTLET**

topped with parmesan crumble & a marinated mixed bean salad

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# VIRUS THRILLER MAKES FOR INFECTIOUS VIEWING

HAVING made his reputation with low-budget pieces such as *Sex, Lies and Videotape*, Steven Soderbergh's elevation to A-list director via *Out of Sight* and *Erin Brokovich* was a pleasing surprise.

Since then, he has balanced mainstream fare, such as the *Oceans* trilogy, with the more cerebral and thought-provoking likes of the *Che* films and *Bubble*, with his latest film, *Contagion*, returning him to the ensemble-led sensibility of *Traffic*.

The film centres around the threat posed by a deadly disease as it afflicts the world, and the efforts of doctors to stop the virus, and features an all-star cast including Matt Damon, Kate Winslet, Jude Law, Laurence Fishburne and Marion Cotillard; but will they be able to stop it or will the world feel the full brunt of it...

Given that the global population has endured both bird flu and SARS in recent years, the timing of *Contagion* isn't bad going, particularly

the response to these diseases was panic on a large scale.

That being said, had the reaction been anything like the one in the film it would have made for an unsettling experience as *Contagion* ramps up the drama and tension, resulting in a film that serves as a stark warning to the dangers of disease and also man's desire to survive above all other things.

With its 'disaster movie of the week' set-up, screenwriter Scott Z Burns does a pretty good job of steering it away from cliche, with no cuts to the President talking about how to manage the populace, no square-jawed hero trying to stop the virus, nor a cheesy set-piece in sight.

Instead, he concentrates on the human drama, veering from political discussion about the nature of the virus, what can be done to stop it and the costs involved, both financial and human, to the concerns of the man on the street, attempting to navigate a world struck by food shortages, to the people attempting to profit from the disease and its cure.

It is an intelligent screenplay that raises valid questions and offers possible solutions, rather than definitive ones, while similarly showing that even those in charge of solving the problem are fallible to the concerns of the human condition, Burns stressing at all times the effects of the disease both on the infected and the non-infected.

Steven Soderbergh could easily have chosen to go for spectacle in terms of his direction, but instead directs with an economy that opts for maximum impact, the lingering close-ups of door handles, glasses, a bowl of bar-room nuts both creeping you out and making you reach for the hand-sanitiser.

He also gives you a teasing glimpse into the way the world has crumbled post-virus, streets overspilling with litter as people in hazmat suits walk around, while shops and homes are looted as the world becomes a lawless society; if the meat weren't infected, the next step would almost certainly be men turning into cannibals, such is the level of disorder.

## SCREEN TALK



by GARETH JAMIESON

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what is going on and come to terms with his grief. That the actor achieves this in a low-key performance is particularly impressive, but Damon doesn't have to carry the piece alone.

Jennifer Ehle's research scientist creates ripples with a strong performance that seemingly comes from nowhere, while Laurence Fishburne as the head of the Centre for Disease Control, captures the essence of a man doing his best for the world but also helping his family.

While Kate Winslet is suitably headstrong as a doctor on the frontline, Marion Cotillard is let down by a weak story strand that feels a little too out of sync from the rest of the film.

If Jude Law's aim was to make his activist blogger an annoying pain, then the actor is far better than I would give him credit for, but as it is, feels a little too forced, despite the character's importance in debunking the modern-day snake oil salesmen that pop up when situations like this arise.

However, in terms of creating fear and tension from a disease, the

film doesn't really put a foot wrong, the fear an all-too familiar one which plays on our natural concerns of survival; certainly once you've watched *Contagion* you'll be far more aware of coughs and sneezes than ever before...

**VERDICT** – A well-made film that will certainly strike a chord, *Contagion* is a film that focuses on fear and tension magnified through human concerns.

Achieving this through an unseeen disease takes some doing, but Scott Z Burns' script, strong direction from Steven Soderbergh and some well-tuned performances from the ensemble cast help to pull it off, in what is a stark warning as to the dangers of disease. Recommended.

SEE THIS IF YOU LIKED: *Traffic* (2000), *28 Days Later* (2002).

Laura in the running for Miss Cardiff



ABOVE: Llantwit Major's Laura Roberts has won a place in the final of Miss Cardiff. The 20-year-old student at Cardiff University, told The GEM: "People can support me by texting Laura Roberts to 81118. If I do win, I will undertake charity work and also become an ambassador for Cardiff 2012." The final takes place in Cardiff tomorrow, October 28.

## DYSPRAXIA MEETING

THE next meeting of the Vale Dyspraxia Support Group will be held on Monday, November 7 at 7.30pm in the Civic Offices, Holton Road, Barry.

The group supports children and young people with dyspraxia (as well as related conditions such as dyslexia, ADHD, Asperger's Syndrome, OCD,

Tourettes) and their parents and carers, by providing advice and information, as well as an opportunity to exchange experiences.

The Vale Dyspraxia Support Group operates a 24-hour help and advice line on 01446 738945 and a website, www.vds.org.uk and it also runs social activities and a laptop loan programme.

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# One thing is certain at Brynhill – the champion was always going to be a Scott!

**THE Championship Finals Day at Brynhill Golf Club is always an eagerly anticipated day, for all the competitors and their supporters.**

The games were played in fine weather, with the highlight the Club Championship, played over 36 holes, off scratch, with 18 holes in the morning and 18 in the afternoon.

This year was significant in the fact that two best friends, Scott Bowman and Scott Warne, met each other in the final.

An intriguing contest unfolded, which saw Scott Bowman lead five up as they retired for lunch.

Upon resumption, Scott Warne made a telling response and got the margin back to two, before Scott Bowman reasserted himself, winning 4 and 3.

The captain, Steve Jones, said it was a pleasure to referee a match where both competitors played the game in such a wonderful spirit.

## Barrivale Bridge

**THE latest results from Barrivale Bridge Club are as follows:**

Tuesday, October 18, session 2 of the mens and ladies' pairs.

In first place were Denis Mottram and Mick Green with 55.56 per cent. In second were Irene Thomas and Noelle Bond (54.17), and joint third were Diana Kendrick and Lyn Matthews, and Kay Dyer and Jane Brook on 52.78.

Denis and Mick also won on handicap.

New members are always welcome at Barrivale. For more information, telephone 01446 733425.



Left to right: Mike Bird (caddy); Simmon Pringle; Lee Galsworthy; vice-captain Glenn Taylor; Lee's caddy Christian Shepherd.



Left to right: Huw Wigley (caddy); Scott Bowman; club captain Steve Jones; Scott Warne; and his caddy Sam Preston.



ABOVE: Kevin Williams and Steve Nicholls with their caddies and referee John Kirkpatrick.



ABOVE: Barry Malpas and Andrew Redmond with their caddies and referee Ricky Bowman.

## Charity football match pays tribute to popular player and local coach Allan Dicks



ABOVE: The two teams pictured before the match.

A popular football coach from Barry, who lost his battle against cancer, was remembered at a special football match at Maslin Park.

Allan Dicks died in 2008, but he is far from forgotten by the young people he coached and team-mates he played with.

Barry FC's under-18s team was disbanding as the players no longer qualify to play in the South Wales Youth League. They are all moving on to senior teams, employment or university, and took the opportunity of a final match to meet up with their team-mates for a last time before they go their separate ways and as a tribute to their former assistant coach, Allan.

The under-18s youth players from last season were challenged by some of Allan's old team-mates to a match with the added aim of raising funds for Cancer Research Wales.

The score didn't matter and the spirit of the match was wonderful, but the younger legs shone through on the day. Coach Haydn Stait said: "We never got over losing Allan but we knew that he was watching and coaching the boys' every game in spirit."

"The season following Allan's death, the team went on to do the double by winning both the league and the Cup, and it was all in memory of Allan; he would have been so proud."

Allan's wife Lisa was joined by his children and her parents to watch the game.

His son Ethan was previously the team's



ABOVE: Allan Dicks was remembered by team mates and the youngsters he coached.

## IMPS LOOK GOOD IN NEW KIT!



CADOXTON Imps under-13As would like to thank their kit sponsors, Marco and Nino Zeraschi of Marco's Cafe, Barry Island, for their kind and generous sponsorship,

allowing them to purchase new football kit for this season.

Coaches Andrew Smith and Mark John said: "We would like to personally thank both Marco and Nino for their con-

tinued support as this is the third year that they have provided funding to the team, allowing them to purchase kit, warm weather clothing and equipment. We are very grateful to them, they have been fantastic."

MJ

goalkeeper but had to unfortunately sit the game out due to a rugby injury.

Instead, he volunteered to referee the game on crutches instead! Previous fund raising by the club and friends of Allan raised enough funds to pay for a bench at Maslin Park in his memory.

Team treasurer Claire Curtis said: "It was great to see all the players together one more time and we would like to thank the players, parents, friends and supporters who helped us raise £600 for Cancer Research Wales."

"I would like to also thank Haydn Stait for his years of dedication and commitment to the team, and for organising this farewell match in memory of Allan".

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## Past captains come together

**Special occasion at local club's annual gathering**

IT was a very special occasion at RAF St Athan Golf Club when 2011 club captain BJ Hawkins welcomed past captains to join him at their annual gathering.

This year saw a record 25 past captains attend the event; 18 of them managing to play in the 18 hole golf competition before 'donning' their captains' jackets and ties for the dinner and presentation.

With BJ chairing the evening at the head of the table, and the immediate past captain Ade Hawkins at the bottom, the others were seated in order of

seniority on their year of captaincy, the earliest being Dan Archer who took the helm in 1979.

It was an honour for the existing members to once again welcome their counterparts; who for various reasons, including ill health and living out of the area, are restricted in their attendance at the club.

Club caterer, Leanne Gordon did the captain proud, providing a sumptuous three-course meal which was enjoyed by everyone while reminiscing with old and new friends.

The senior past captains proved their memories are still intact, recalling the club's history and their own antics in bygone years.

Mike Hurry (1985 captain) was jubilant in winning the golf trophy, beating Gwyn Favell on count back with a well deserved 37 stableford points.

Mike made an emotional speech stating that "...to me this trophy is one of the most prestigious to win", a sentiment felt by the majority.

The evening culminated with 'absent friends' being remembered and good wishes being passed between everybody present, all agreeing that they are looking forward to next year.

RAF St Athan is proud of its history; a members' club which caters for green fee players, but particularly welcome new social and playing members; please feel free to visit or phone 01446 751043 for further information.

CM



Mike Hurry.



Dan Archer and BJ.

## Lions' team through to the final!

**LLANTWIT Major JFC under-14s travelled to Somerset, representing Llantwit Major and Cowbridge Lions in the prestigious Lions Club international 5 nations youth football tournament.**

Llantwit started the game well, maintaining a high tempo and Frome were grateful for their excellent keeper who made a series of saves to keep the score at 0-0.

However towards the end of the first half Frome used the strong wind to their advantage scoring directly from a corner and with a finely struck free kick from 30 yards out.

The game was an excellent advert for junior football with both teams playing with great skill, determination and sportsmanship.

The Llantwit players, officials and supporters would like to thank the Lions Club of Llantwit Major and Cowbridge for their sponsorship, and to the Lions Club of Frome and Frome Collegians football club for the warm welcome and generous hospitality.

PC

by the Frome players grew in confidence and they defended superbly well while always looking dangerous on the break through their strong running centre forward.

The Llantwit players did not panic and were eventually rewarded when Ashford Thomas turned in a corner to level the scores.

It looked like extra time but one last Llantwit attack found Kristian Jones in space in the box and he drilled the ball home to send Llantwit into the South West area final.

The game was an excellent advert for junior football with both teams playing with great skill, determination and sportsmanship.

The Llantwit players, officials and supporters would like to thank the Lions Club of Llantwit Major and Cowbridge for their sponsorship, and to the Lions Club of Frome and Frome Collegians football club for the warm welcome and generous hospitality.

## Pentyrch's late rush is harsh on under-9s

game saw Cowbridge take on local rivals Porthcawl.

Porthcawl started the game with some aggressive straight running but came up against a resolute Cowbridge defence.

In fact the game's first try came from deep inside the Cowbridge 22 as Ben followed up a strong tackle, with a good turnover and some excellent running, creating an overlap for Evan to run half the length of the pitch to score in the corner.

This try set the tone for the entire game with Cowbridge tries coming thick and fast. The try count reached five by the end of the first half, with Reuben adding another, and Barny, Lewis and Ioan joining him on the scoresheet.

All tries were well executed and stemmed from Cowbridge's aggressive defence and some quick turnover ball supplied by the forwards and slick passing by the backs. Lewis's try was notable in that it was the first time the boys have scored a try from the pitch to score in the corner.

More hard running from the forwards set up the game's second try for Tom to score his first try of the season. The half's last try came from a well-rehearsed backs move resulting in Barny scoring in the corner.

The second half started as the first finished with the Cowbridge pack rumbling up the field, and a quick tap penalty resulted in Barty scoring.

However, Porthcawl did not let their heads drop and continued to tackle well and put Cowbridge under pressure.

A break out from their own 22 and some weak Cowbridge defence allowed Porthcawl to score their opening try of the match.

Cowbridge fought back and finished the game strongly with both Barny and Ben completing the scoring.

Tom converted all six tries, resulting in a final score of Cowbridge 42, Porthcawl 7.

The unbeaten season continues, well done boys, keep up the great work and free flowing rugby!

A LOVELY sunny morning saw Cowbridge visit Pentyrch – traditionally stiff opposition.

Cowbridge split their squad into two teams, each playing a full game, then half a game for the third period.

Cowbridge then took a slim one try aggregate lead into the final period of play, leading 9-8.

A strong Pentyrch team took to the field and despite some good attacking moves and strong defence, Cowbridge failed to score.

Pentyrch were running some very good angles and were able to run in tries out wide. They eventually crossed the line a total of five times, giving a flattering score line of 14-9 for the day.

The Cowbridge squad however is showing a big improvement in its ability to pass and tackle.

**Final score:**  
**Pentyrch 9**  
**Cowbridge 14**

**Squad :** Jay Downes, David Harris, Harry Howkins, Oliver Jarman, Aled Leitch, Charlie Locke, Jack Reilly, Harry Whittaker, Jake Williams, Rhys Williams, Iwan-Thomas Bartle, Sam Coates, Griff Ford, James Gilvear, Matthew Gilvear, Tom Johnson, McKinley Parsons, Tom Pugh, Dewi Williams.

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SAINTS saw their 100 per cent record come to an end after this thriller.

Saints were 3-0 up and cruising but blew the advantage as Athletico came back to draw the game in dramatic fashion.

Saints came into this game missing five key players through injury or suspension but started more brightly, Athletico struggling to break down their impressive passing display.

Saints were rewarded early on when Phil Morgan was pulled back in the box for a penalty, but Leigh Lewis saw his spot kick well saved.

The onrushing Morgan quickly pounced on the rebound and also had his low strike saved, but the ball fortunately fell to Lewis' feet, who tucked the ball in from close range.

Athletico hit back and searched for a leveller and looked to have the chance when their forward was brought down by Gareth Richards, but he made amends by saving the resulting penalty.

Saints soon doubled their lead as Nicky Cox's inch-perfect pass to Phil Morgan was passed onto Leigh Lewis, who raced onto the ball to fire low across the keeper.

With Athletico clearly rattled, Saints continued to dominate and began

**Athletico FC** 3  
**Sunday Saints** 3

the second period just as well.

The partnership of Morgan and Lewis again combined with a successful result as Morgan flicked the ball on to the advancing Lewis who found space along the flank.

Lewis then squared the ball back to Morgan, who calmly slotted home Saints' third.

Saints were dictating the game and restricting the home side to long shots and wayward passes, but then Saints took their foot off the gas and Athletico worked their way back into the game.

Fifteen minutes into the half Athletico managed their first after the ball fell to one of their striker's feet inside the box from a corner.

Athletico got right back into the game from the penalty spot.

After a goal mouth scramble Saints' full-back Rob Collings was adjudged to have handled an incoming shot to prevent it crashing into an open goal. The Athletico forward made no mistake from the spot.

The turning point came in a controversial incident.

Morgan, moments before, had been rightly booked for a hard tackle, but when Saints had a throw in on the far side

# Raiders win Barn petanque club 'open'

RECENTLY, the Barn Petanque Club held its inaugural open triples competition.

As the playing area is limited a total of eight teams contested this event, with participants coming from Cardiff, Wenvoe, Penarth, Caerleon, Brecon and Llanhenock.

The morning was played in two pools of four teams, with timed games to ensure that all the players could take lunch together.

From the morning results the teams were ranked for their places in the Cup quarter-finals, with the afternoon games not time limited.

The four winning teams progressed to the Cup semi-finals and the losing teams to the plate semi-finals.

The four teams contesting the Cup were the Wenvoe Raiders, Les Dames Celtiques, Arfachog and All Mixed Up, and the four teams contesting the plate were French Connection, Derek's Team, Three Degrees North and The Nicholls.

All the semi-finals were well contested games with Wenvoe Raiders and All Mixed Up, a team from the Barn, progressing to the Cup final and French

JWS

## Tim 'Revs It Up'

**REV It Up** trained at Aberthian by Tim Vaughan landed the **T o t e P l a c e P o t Maiden Hurdle** (Div 2) at Chepstow last Saturday.

An 8-1 chance, five-year-old Rev It Up, ridden by Richard Johnson, had a length to spare over the 5-4 favourite Dualia Lord trained by champion trainer Paul Nicholls.

Johnson went on to ride a hat-trick scoring on Fingal Bay and Arthurian Legend who are both trained by Philip Hobbs.

Meantwhile, SoHappyHarry, a five-year-old chestnut gelding owned and bred by Mrs Sue Mathias of Llancarfan and trained by her permit holder daughter Jane, caused quite a surprise last week at Ludlow when coming home four-and-a-half lengths ahead of the long odds-on favourite Lava Lamp trained by leading National Hunt trainer Ewan Williams, who just happens to be a neighbour of the Mathias family.

SoHappyHarry, who was confidently ridden by Irishman Donal Fahy, was returned at odds of 7-2 in a field of just four runners. Williams had some consolation when his River Rhapsody won the next race and then again when in the final race of the day his

Sublime Talent forced a dead-heat with the favourite Esporad.

Tom David, who has left Tim Vaughan's Aberthian yard to ride for Shrewsbury's Sheila Crow, landed a 33-1 winner Foreign King for Mike Hammond.

**TIM'S FAKENHAM HAT-TRICK**

Hat-trick king Tim Vaughan has done it again!

At Fakenham on Friday he scored with My Moment, Bottman and Sautie My Moment, a 7-2 shot, who beat the favourite Court Red Handled by three lengths in the Handicap Chase.

Bottman came home eight lengths ahead of the favourite, the Evan Williams trained Get It On, in the Novices' Chase and the top weighted Sautie won by six lengths from Smack That in the handicap hurdle.

BRIAN LEE

# Quarter-final success for Barry RFC under-14s

FIFTEEN of South Wales' best teams converged on St Peter's, Cardiff for the invitation 12-a-side tournament.

The losing semi-finalists all played in bronze final matches to determine which teams were third in each competition.

In the Cup final, the Wenvoe Raiders took control in the first end and cruised to a 13-6 victory; by comparison the Plate Final was a much closer game.

Derek's Team took an early lead, but French Connection clawed their way back into the game to finally go down 13-8.

Les Dames Celtiques were third in the Cup, and Three Degrees North third in the tournament.

Each of the Cup winners received a bottle of wine and a voucher for a meal and drinks at The Barn, the Plate winners received a bottle of wine each and the runners-up in each competition received chocolates.

All the participants expressed their thanks to the organisers of the competition and to Lyn Babbage, manager of The Barn, for the superb buffet lunch.

They also said they looked forward to the event being held next year, with two teams booking their places in advance.

JWS

Barry were then hit by an injury to centre-winger Lloyd James who was taken off with a broken collar bone early in the second half and despite some sterling work by the 12 remaining players, they couldn't claw their way back into the game.

Final score Barry 5, Penclawdd 24.

If you are an experienced rugby player and are looking to join Barry RFC under-14s, contact Ian Evans on 07764256428.

IE

## Barry Atoms beat Dinas

**THIS was a great game played with true spirit.**

Dinas showed their intent from the off, scoring a try from the start which then stung Barry into action.

Barry soon scored to level and then it was nip and tuck seeing Barry

run out eventual winners 4 tries to 3.

Boys are adapting well. Try scorers:

D.Griffiths (2), J.Couch, J.Reid,  
Squad : Z.Fieldif, E.Galsworthy, C.Denbury, R.Rendell, D.Wall, J.Parry, O.Llewellyn Smith, T.Pugh, F.Samad, F.Giosanou, I.Escott, J.Jones.

RR

**Mark picks up reigns at Dinas**

**MARK Dunford has been appointed as manager of Dinas Powys FC.**

Mark currently plays for Dinas Powys in the Welsh League and has vast experience at this level, having previously played for Pontardawe, Maesteg Park, and Goytre Utd; he will combine his playing career with managing the side.

Phil Clay has been in temporary charge and will remain as assistant manager, and the club would like to thank Phil for his excellent work in the interim.

Also joining the club as assistant is Matt Boyd-Anderson, formerly with Fairwater FC in the South Wales Senior League.

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## Sea View Lads results

THE lads have enjoyed some good results recently, notably four club members in the top 11 at the recent Seamaster competition!

Paul Crook was second overall with a cod and dogfish, picking up £150 for his efforts, while Aida Harris and Richard Louger were in the top ten with Kevin Gardner in 11th place – well done lads!

A recent trip to Llangennith saw all but one land the elusive golden grey mullet, flounders and, for the lucky ones, even bass!

The top three anglers all landed over 20lb of fish each, only one person blanked.

Mixed shore results have seen too many blanks but we expect the weights to increase with the arrival of the rays.

**Results:** Sunday, September 25: First, Mickey Langford – 4lb

**Bees show off their fitness**

**A DEPLETED Barry Bees under-9s travelled to Penarth.**

The home team had the luxury of rotating players from a large squad, while Barry had no substitutes.

Penarth ran in three quick tries and this seemed to galvanise the Bees, who responded well with a couple of good scores.

Defence was the issue however, and the home team led 5-2 after the first quarter. Given the strength of the Penarth squad it was looking very ominous, but showing great determination the Bees began to force the pace and took the game to Penarth for the remainder of the match.

The final score was 15-13; strong running Cole Saunders ran in eight tries, with Jake Lang, Reece Lloyd and Isaacs McBride also forcing their way over, with two penalty tries.

Overall, a great display of rugby from all.

JM

## CALLING ALL CLUB OFFICIALS!

We welcome your news, reports and other items of interest - email: [gemeditorial@tindlenews.co.uk](mailto:gemeditorial@tindlenews.co.uk)

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## Land Cruiser has evolved

THE Range Rover is the longest-established luxury 4x4... Right? Wrong! It was launched in 1970, but the Toyota Land Cruiser was actually introduced 19 years earlier.

This came as quite a surprise to me. Admittedly, there have been quite a few different versions starting off with the rugged Jeep-like open top AK in 1951 - in fact I was the proud owner of a remote control version when I was a teenager.

The BJ and FJ models, from 1951 to 1955, followed. Over time the Land Cruiser has evolved to become an ultra-luxurious, highly capable off-roader and the current 200 series was launched in 2008.

In recognition of its 60 years in production, Toyota has introduced a special 60th anniversary model, available in either 3-litre diesel or 4.5-litre V8 versions.

The 3-litre model tested comes complete with triple-zone climate control air conditioning, Toyota's Easy Flat rear seat system with third row seats (powered), leather upholstery, HDD navigation system, multi-terrain Select system, Crawl Control, and JBL 17-speaker premium audio.

Oh, and did I mention the cool box underneath the central armrest in the front? It's not far off the size of a mini fridge and operates in conjunction with the air conditioning.

The Land Cruiser is a gargantuan beast. It seems to dwarf other vehicles considered to be competitors such as those 'Chelsea tractors' from Mercedes and Volkswagen.

But it is much more than just a bit of eye-candy, it has been built for a proper purpose. Toyota is targeting affluent and demanding



ABOVE: The new Toyota Land Cruiser.

owners who require a vehicle that's smart enough to be parked outside their offices (which they'll probably also own), can happily tow their boats and trailers and off-roads to its heart's content.

Parkers, the car experts, write that it is "amazingly capable in difficult terrain". A vehicle for farmers or property developers perhaps - those who don't want to appear too flamboyant and have a bit of taste... From the outside it is perhaps a little staid but it certainly doesn't blend into the background.

I particularly like the boot, because it can either open as a complete door for easy loading or, if something light like a gym bag needs to be stored in, the glass can be opened separately. The rear wiper is neatly concealed, too.

It's no surprise to learn that the Toyota Land Cruiser is so popular in the Middle East with Sheikhs who drive these uncomplaining beasts through sand dunes in the baking desert for a bit of fun.

Inside the Land Cruiser are luxurious black leather seats and such a high driving position that useful side steps are provided to easy entry.

There's a bit of wood effect too on the steering wheel and door inserts, which is a nice touch.

Equipped with five-speed auto-

matic gearbox and cruise control, it is capable of returning around 30mpg.

Initially, it feels a little bulky but it doesn't take long to really warm to it. In a past life I used to horse ride and sitting so high up reminds me of those days - the commanding driving position giving a great sense of security.

It's an intimidating brute too, other drivers moving into the centre lane of the motorway when they see it in their rear view mirrors. It happily cruises at the national speed limit.

The week of the test was a challenging time on Britain's roads, heavy congestion delaying my daily commute.

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TIM SAUNDERS



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# GEM sport

## AS WALES LOOK BACK ON LOST OPPORTUNITIES... LESSONS THERE TO BE LEARNT FOR NEXT RUGBY WORLD CUP

AFTER seven weeks of rugby heroics and missing out on a first World Cup final by just one point (8-9) to France in a semi-final Wales knew they should have won, despite being a man down – it was inevitable that the battle for ‘bronze’ should prove something of an anti-climax at Eden Park, Auckland – with the main event taking place there two days later.

The young team had been dismissed as ‘no-hoppers’ by most pundits outside Wales (and some inside) before the tournament began; but had won widespread acclaim for the manner of their displays in a tough pool D, beginning with the battling 16-17 loss to defending champions, South Africa – and also the 22-10 quarter final victory over Ireland.

Having made the critics sit up with gutsy performances of style and power, and a robust defence built on phenomenal physical fitness, they had seen their hopes cruelly dashed by a French team that had seemed there for the taking.

Now head coach Warren Gatland had to raise them once again in one last effort against Australia, for the consolation prize of third place in RWC 2011.

The two nations had, of course, been there before – at the first World Cup in 1987, when Wales scraped a 22-21 win through a late Adrian Hadley try, converted from the touchline by full back Paul Thorburn.

That was followed by nine consecutive vic-

### BACK PAGE COMMENT by Don John

tories for the men from Oz, only broken in Grand Slam year 2005, when Wales won 24-22 in Cardiff.

Moreover, the overall record shows Australia winning 20 of the 31 fixtures between the two since 1908, with Wales winning 10 and one match drawn.

Memories were still fresh of the 16-25 defeat to Australia in Cardiff on November 6 last year, so Wales knew the size of the task facing them on Saturday against the pre-tournament second favourites.

In the event, it proved a test too far for a gallant young Welsh side that failed to rise to the heights of excellence they had earlier reached in this World Cup, as the cumulative effect of those sterling efforts and loss of key players finally took their toll.

Coming under intense pressure from the outset, they fell behind to a soft converted try within 12 minutes and although James Hook landed a simple penalty to reduce arrears, the first half was marked by repeated Welsh handling errors and missed kicking opportunities.

Leigh Halfpenny had a chance to cut the Wallabies’ lead with a long range penalty, but was unsuccessful; then Hook, who was having another miserable time at outside half, skewed a penalty kick after the interval and then failed to convert a typical poacher’s try by Shane Williams which had inched Wales ahead 8-7.

Just as in the quarter final, Hook was replaced by the steady hand of veteran Stephen Jones, who kicked a penalty – but Australia regained the lead with two penalties and a drop goal, before George North made a courageous last ditch tackle to prevent a certain try.

However, the Wallabies were not to be denied for long and went over for a second touchdown that made the score 21-11 in their favour.

Battling Wales had the last word when Halfpenny scampered over for a try converted by Jones, but it came too late – the final 18-21 score-line bringing down the curtain on a brave Rugby World Cup challenge that had won them many admirers in New Zealand.

While there will be those who say that once again it was a familiar story of ‘so near, yet so far’, for Wales, who are still not quite able to close the narrow gap between heroic defeat and a tight-fought victory, the Welsh camp surely have cause for real satisfaction.

Not least is the final proof that Wales now have fearless young players fit and able to compete on a level playing field for 80 minutes with the best in the world and have the confidence and innate skills to match them.

They have also shown that they are capable of matching the level of intensity and controlled aggression of southern hemisphere sides and thus no longer need to hold them in awe, as has so often been the case in the past.

True, Wales patently lack the strength in depth available to the likes of New Zealand (who were able to overcome the loss of key personnel and still win the World Cup with a fourth choice outside half on Sunday).

In contrast, the absence of irreplaceable tight-head Adam Jones, captain Sam Warburton and No 10 Rhys Priestland, proved fatal to Welsh hopes in the closing stages.

The loss of pack anchorman Jones, in particular, was shown to stark effect, not only against France, but also in the ‘bronze medal’ game (where Australia suddenly discovered they had a scrum!).

So, there is much for Gatland and his fellow coaches to ponder back home, as they reflect on a World Cup that exceeded all expectations, but by the same token, was deeply frustrating because of the errors that cost Wales dear.

They could be forgiven for musing that it was an opportunity lost – and that but for their catalogue of misfortune (and a place-kicking crisis of confidence) it could have been Wales, and not France, facing the strangely below-par All Blacks, who scrabbled to an 8-7 win in the final on Sunday.

*Could a more expansive Wales have gone one score better than the French and caused a shock of seismic proportions in world rugby? Alas, we will never know.*

*Suffice to say that most of the squad are young enough to apply the lessons learnt Down Under and can now look forward to the next World Cup on ‘home’ soil with justified confidence.*

## Disappointment on the road as Barry RFC suffer Nantymoel loss

BARRY RFC travelled to the Ogmore Valley last Saturday to face a side with which they shared the honours in the last campaign.

It was a cold and windy day but mercifully dry underfoot. Barry started brightly with a penalty attempt falling just under the crossbar.

Hadfield was winning ball on the ground, enabling the backs to pressurise the home defence. After 10 minutes, a penalty to Nantymoel for a high tackle was successful.

Enterprising play by Ryan set up the Barry

NANTYMOEL RFC	22
BARRY RFC	6

riposte, with Cummings levelling the scores from 40 metres.

Barry’s cohesion was slipping away, with the set scrum coming under pressure. Poor tackling in mid-field allowed the home team to stroll over for a try, which was converted from an easy position.

Barry did manage another penalty but were beginning to look really ragged.

Nantymoel began to dominate proceedings led by a kicking outside half on good form. With seconds to go until the interval, a yellow card was issued to Hardy for a late tackle.

The home side then scored a breakaway try which left a half-time scoreboard of 17 to 6 in their favour.

The second period started with Barry looking more composed, with some surg-

options marred their efforts.

When these things happen, one is tempted to question whether training is being diligently attended.

On the positive side there were cameo performances from some players; notably Lee, Parker and Hadfield.

Overall a very disappointing performance. Next weekend gives the team an opportunity to get the show back on the road with a home fixture against Llantwit Major.

Barry: Ryan, Adams, Walsh, Cummings, Provis, Hardy, Lee, Bowditch, Evans, Hollister, O’Sullivan, Williams, Parker, Jones, Hadfield. Subs: Thorn, O’Sullivan, Thomas, Deguara.

CO

## DINAS POWYS FC GRAB VITAL THREE POINTS

### Welsh League Division Two Dinas Powys 2 Ammanford 1

tute Oliver Ardelino lifted the ball over the advancing keeper.

Ammanford continued to press for the equaliser in the few minutes remaining but had left it a bit late and Dinas took the points that lifted them four places in the table.

Five minutes before half-time the home side doubled their lead when Will Penikett side-footed in at the near post, and once again it was Liam Jeremy supplying the cross from a corner.

Half an hour into the game Dinas broke the deadlock when they were awarded a free-kick on the edge of the area. Mathew Trottman took it and when the ball fell for Liam Jeremy, his accurate cross found Jo Hinds in plenty of space and he made no mistake, heading in from close range.

The visitors almost equalised within a couple of minutes and Dinas were grateful to keeper Dave Burnett who pulled off an excellent save to keep out a close range header.

Liam Jeremy had the

beating of the Ammanford defence and when his mazy run past three players took him to the edge of the area, his shot deserved more than to be deflected clear.

The visitors continued to have the better of

the second-half and got the goal their efforts deserved when substi-

te Dave Burnett, Steve Provis, Mike Lewis, Rhys Davies, Mike Brooks, Richard Yarr, Vicki Morgan, Will Penikett (one), Jo Hinds (one), Mathew Trottman, Liam Jeremy. Subs: Joe Briscoe, Nicky Bruce, Chris Lewis, Damien Lack.

Next game: Welsh League Division Two, Saturday, October 29 - Dinas Powys v Croesyceiliog, kick off 2:30pm.

For further news and fixtures see the club's website: www.dinaspowysfc.co.uk

MW

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### ALLAN DICKS REMEMBERED AT CHARITY GAME

A popular football coach from Barry, who lost his battle against cancer, was remembered at a special football match at Maslin Park; see the full report on page 32.